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Implementation of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits: review and coordination of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020

Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report is submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 71/238 and Economic and Social Council resolution 2016/15, in which the Secretary-General was requested to submit a progress report on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020 (Istanbul Programme of Action).

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I. Introduction

1. The present report provides comprehensive information and analysis on recent progress in the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020 (Istanbul Programme of Action),[1] covering all eight priority areas for action and the overarching goal of enhancing graduation. It also reflects decisions and actions by Member States on the further implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action, including the outcome of the Comprehensive Midterm Review of the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020, which took place in Antalya, Turkey, in May 2016 (see A/CONF.228/3, chap. I). Furthermore, it highlights activities by other stakeholders, including civil society and the private sector. Statistical data used for the report are available online.[2]

2. The report provides recommendations on how the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action can be improved, with the objective of ensuring that its goals and targets are achieved in the least developed countries using synergies with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (General Assembly resolution 70/1), including the Sustainable Development Goals and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development (see General Assembly resolution 69/313, annex), as well as the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.[3] 2016 marked the first year of the implementation of these agreements, which reflect the specific development concerns of the least developed countries and priority areas of the Istanbul Programme of Action.[4]

II. Progress in the implementation of key priorities of the Istanbul Programme of Action

3. Average growth in the gross domestic product (GDP) of the least developed countries is estimated to increase in 2016 to 4.5per cent from 3.8per cent in 2015. The growth forecast by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat for 2017 has been revised downwards, from 5.6per cent to 5.2per cent, and for 2018, least developed countries are forecast to grow at 5.5 per cent, well below the 7 per cent target set in the Istanbul Programme of Action and the Sustainable Development Goals.

4. Five least developed countries grew at the 7 per cent target or faster in 2015, down from nine countries in 2014. While only three least developed countries experienced negative growth rates in 2014, six saw their economies contract in 2015, although these recessions are forecast to gradually phase out by 2018. The fastest growing economies in 2015 included Ethiopia (9.6 per cent), and Mali and the Lao People's Democratic Republic (each 7.6 per cent) and Myanmar (7.3 per cent). In 2016, Myanmar was estimated to have grown at 8.3 per cent, followed by Cambodia and the United Republic of Tanzania (each at 7 per cent).

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[1] Report of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Istanbul, Turkey, 9-13 May 2011 (A/CONF.219/7), chap. II.

[2] Available from http://unohrlls.org/. The data are compiled from the official statistics produced by international organizations.

[3] See FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21, annex.

[4] The report entitled "State of the least developed countries 2016", issued in 2016 by the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, provides a mapping of the goals and targets of the Istanbul Programme of Action with the Sustainable Development Goals. Available from http://unohrlls.org/custom-content/uploads/2016/08/State-of-LDCs2016.pdf.

5. This mixed performance can be attributed to several macroeconomic developments. Fuel-producing least developed countries and other commodity exporters have been adversely affected by the decreases in commodity prices, leading to slow growth, fiscal imbalances and a weakening of their foreign reserves. Least developed countries with more diversified export bases are doing better.

6. Some least developed countries are struggling, owing to lower remittances, natural disasters or conflicts and macroeconomic tightening. Sierra Leone, which was hit by the Ebola virus epidemic in 2014, saw its economy contract by 20.3 per cent in 2015. Countries affected by conflict have also suffered economic contractions, including South Sudan and Yemen, which are also affected by famine, with growth rates of -13.1 per cent and -4.0 per cent in 2016, respectively.

7. Poverty in least developed countries remains persistent, although its monitoring is limited by the lack of data. The latest available information shows a reduction of poverty in several least developed countries, including Burkina Faso, Mauritania and the Niger. Of the 19 least developed countries with poverty data since 2011, 7 have poverty rates in excess of 50 per cent, while 4 have rates under 20 per cent. Of the 16 least developed countries with two or more data points since 2001, poverty rates have declined in 9 countries and increased in 7.

A. Productive capacity

8. Structural transformation in least developed countries has been slower than in other developing countries. The average share of manufacturing in least developed countries increased marginally, from 12.1 per cent in 2014 to 12.7 in 2015. However, 14 of the 30 least developed countries for which data for 2015 was available showed a decrease in the share of manufacturing in GDP (11 in Africa and 3 in Asia-Pacific).

9. Gross capital formation as a percentage of GDP has been constant at around 24 per cent since 2011, compared with an average of 31.6 per cent in developing countries as a whole. In 2015 in least developed countries, investment actually declined to 23.5 per cent of GDP, down from 24.9 per cent in 2014.

Infrastructure

10. The number of Internet users per 100 people continued to increase, reaching 12.6 per cent in 2015, up from 10.3 per cent in 2014 and triple the rate in 2010. Five least developed countries had more than 25 Internet users per 100 people in 2015 — Bhutan (39.8), Sao Tome and Principe (25.8), the Sudan (26.6), Tuvalu (42.7) and Yemen (25.1). However, 19 least developed countries still had Internet access rates below 10 per cent, including 11 countries below 5 per cent.

11. Mobile cellular subscriptions also increased from 63.6 per 100 people in 2014 to 68.6 in 2015 (more than double their rate in 2010). Cambodia, the Gambia, Lesotho, Mali and Timor-Leste had penetration rates above 100 per cent in 2015. However, 12 least developed countries still had more than half their population without access to mobile telephones. Furthermore, rural-urban disparities remain, even in countries with high overall mobile access.

12. The share of air freight of least developed countries in world transport has marginally increased, from 0.8 per cent in 2014 to 0.9 per cent in 2015 (having nearly doubled from 0.47 per cent in 2010). Ethiopia and Bangladesh account for 85 per cent the air freight of least developed countries (accounting for 74 per cent and 11 per cent, respectively), while 12 least developed countries have either zero or negligible air freight.

13. The Liner Shipping Connectivity Index, which measures how well countries are connected to global shipping networks, declined from 8.6 in 2015 to 8.2 in 2016, although this level is still 31 per cent higher than that in 2011. In terms of the quality of maritime infrastructure, in 2015, the least developed countries scored 2.9 on the World Economic Forum Quality of Port Infrastructure measure (which ranges from 1 to 7), not far behind developing countries as a whole at 3.5.

14. Public-private partnerships in infrastructure investment have the potential to strengthen productive capacity. Recent examples from the World Bank Private Participation in Infrastructure Database include the Dakar-Diamniadio Toll Road Extension in Senegal, with an investment of $173 million, and the Kathmandu-Kulekhani-Hetauda Tunnel Highway in Nepal, totalling $350 million. Much more investment and regulatory reform, however, are needed for least developed countries to bridge their infrastructure gap and enable them to participate in global value chains.

Energy

15. The percentage of the population in least developed countries having access to electricity increased, from 35.8 per cent in 2012 to 38.3 per cent in 2014. Progress in least developed countries in the Asia-Pacific region was faster than those countries in Africa. Among the least developed countries in Africa, the fastest progress was observed in Sao Tome and Principe, Rwanda and the Sudan. The growth in access to electricity has been uneven. In six least developed countries, the percentage of population with access declined in the period from 2012 and 2014. Likewise, the gap between access to electricity between rural and urban populations remains vast: in 2012, only 26 per cent of the rural population had access, compared with 68 per cent of the urban population.

16. Factors hindering faster growth of access to energy include the slow expansion of energy supply, high user fees, owing in part to an energy mix that is tilted towards fuel-powered energy plants, and enduring losses in the transmission and distribution of electricity as well as the lack of investment. The notable improvement in the competitiveness of renewable power generation technologies offers new opportunities to many least developed countries to increase access and make such technologies more affordable and accessible.

Science, technology and innovation

17. With respect to science, technology and innovation, least developed countries are lagging behind in all aspects. Citizens of least developed countries (both residents and non-residents) filed a total of 542 patents in 2014, down from 639 in 2010. For comparison, 516 patents were filed in Sri Lanka alone in 2013. Furthermore, the filing of patents was concentrated in a few least developed countries, with Bangladesh accounting for 54 per cent, Cambodia for 12 per cent and Yemen for another 10 per cent. Madagascar and Zambia led patent filing in the least developed countries in Africa, with 6 per cent and 7 per cent of the total, respectively.

18. In 2013, only 0.3 per cent of the scientific and technical articles published in journals worldwide came from least developed countries (up from 0.27 in 2010), which corresponds to 7.2 articles per 1 million people. The limited data relating to expenditure on research and development in least developed countries indicates that it is probably less than 0.5 per cent of GDP, compared with 1.4 per cent in developing countries. This low rate of spending explains in part the limited use of advanced technology in the economies of least developed countries. Other obstacles to technological diffusion include isolation from global research networks, limited

domestic capacities in science and technology and the lack of technicians and researchers in research and development.

19. On 23 December 2016, the General Assembly officially established the Technology Bank for the Least Developed Countries as a new United Nations institution, which is a long-standing priority of the least developed countries provided for in the Istanbul Programme of Action and reiterated in Sustainable Development Goal 17. The Technology Bank for aims to build national and regional capacities in the areas of intellectual property rights and technology-related policies, as well as facilitate the transfer of technologies on voluntary and mutually agreed terms and conditions.

Private sector development

20. There has been some improvement in creating an enabling environment for the private sector in least developed countries. Several countries, such as Bhutan (73rd), Rwanda (56th), Vanuatu (83rd) and Zambia (98th) are among the top 100 in the overall ranking of the Doing Business indicators. Fourteen least developed countries were ranked among the top 100 for starting a business and seven were in the top 100 for trading across borders.

21. In the private sector, however, the prevalence of small firms hampers inter-firm linkages and reduces the scope for innovation and economies of scale, which is constraining productivity growth. Other obstacles to private sector development are high transport and transaction costs and trade barriers, which limit the competitiveness of least developed countries in global markets.

B. Agriculture

22. Agriculture is still the largest employer in most least developed countries, with an average of 60 per cent of the employed population. The average share of value added in agriculture as a percentage of GDP has remained constant at around 26 per cent in the past three years.

23. It is estimated that in 2015, 22.3 per cent of the population — 177 million people — lived with hunger in the least developed countries, mainly in rural areas. The reliance on agriculture for their livelihoods and the high share of expenditure of the poor on food makes them especially vulnerable to poverty and hunger. In February 2017, famine was declared in South Sudan, where nearly half the population is considered to be severely food insecure. In two other least developed countries, Somalia and Yemen, famine looms.

24. Agricultural productivity in least developed countries remained constant from 2010 to 2014. The index of production per capita stood at around 112.3 from the baseline of 100 during the period 2004-2006. The use of fertilizer increased only marginally for least developed countries in Africa, from 24.1 kg per hectare of arable land in 2013 to 26.7 kg in 2014. In least developed countries in Asia, the use of fertilizer was much higher, with 81.7 kg in 2014. However, this was driven mainly by very high use in Bangladesh and Nepal. Most other Asian countries used around 20 kg of fertilizer. Irrigation is also the exception in most least developed countries, with only 8.3 per cent of total agricultural land being irrigated.

25. Recent decreases in food prices have made food less expensive for the urban poor, while negatively affecting the incomes of rural food producers. Furthermore, price declines and volatility have increased uncertainty and reduced investments in agriculture.

C. Trade

26. The share of exports from least developed countries in world trade further declined to 0.97 per cent in 2015 from 1.09 per cent in 2014, for the first time below 1 per cent since 2007 and further below the target of 2 per cent set by the Istanbul Programme of Action and the Sustainable Development Goals. The concentration of merchandise exports from least developed countries has shifted, with 67 per cent consisting of primary commodities, precious stones and non-monetary gold in 2015, down from 76 per cent in 2014. This is due in part to the recent decline in commodity prices but also to the increasing importance of clothing exports, mainly from Bangladesh and Cambodia.

27. Members of the World Trade Organization (WTO) continued their efforts to advance duty-free and quota-free market access for the products of least developed countries in 2016. All developed Members provide either full or significant duty-free and quota-free market access to the products of least developed countries. A growing number of developing Members, including the top trading partners of least developed countries (China, India and Thailand), grant a significant degree of duty-free and quota-free access to the least developed countries and some have reached comprehensive duty-free and quota free coverage.

28. The transparency of rules of origin related to trade preferences has further increased. On 1 January 2017, the European Union, Norway and Switzerland introduced a new system of self-certification of origin for registered exporters from least developed countries.

29. Progress has been registered in the area of preferential treatment for the services and service suppliers of least developed countries. Following the decision on the services waiver for least developed countries, adopted at the Tenth Ministerial Conference of WTO, held in Nairobi in 2015, members have continued work on the operationalization of the waiver. So far, 23 members have notified their service preferences for least developed countries at WTO.

30. The Midterm Review included the objective of increasing aid for trade support, and to strive to allocate an increasing proportion of aid for trade to the least developed countries. In 2015, aid for trade disbursements to least developed countries amounted to $10.5 billion, representing a nominal increase of 18 per cent, compared with average disbursements during the period 2009-2011. Economic infrastructure projects benefitted from more than half of aid for trade flows to least developed countries, while agriculture received more than a quarter of flows. Aid for trade flows to least developed countries represented 27 per cent of total disbursements in 2015, compared with 25 per cent in 2014.

31. The Istanbul Programme of Action called for the facilitation and acceleration of accession negotiations with least developed countries based on the accession guidelines. At present, 36 of 48 least developed countries are members of WTO. Two least developed countries, Afghanistan and Liberia, officially acceded to the WTO in July 2016, and accession negotiations were initiated for two other least developed countries, Somalia and Timor-Leste, in December 2016. Six additional least developed countries are currently in the process of accession (Bhutan, Comoros, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, the Sudan and Sao Tome and Principe).

32. The WTO Agreement on Trade Facilitation entered into force on 22 February 2017, with ratifications from Chad and Rwanda. According to a study by WTO, least developed countries are likely to see an increase of up to 35 per cent of the number of new products exported once the Agreement is fully implemented. This

could have a positive impact on the terms of trade for least developed countries, as the total value of exports from these countries is likely to increase.

D. Commodities

33. The percentage of exports of primary commodities by least developed countries declined significantly, from an average of 80 per cent of exports in 2011 to 67 per cent in 2015. The decline in merchandise exports was mainly observed in fuels (21 percentage points). However, exports of manufactured goods increased by about 12 percentage points during the same time period.

34. These changes occurred within a context of continuing declines in commodity prices after 2011/12, when the last price spikes were experienced. Strong oil supply resulted in a sharp decline in annual crude petroleum prices, by more than 50 per cent between 2011 and 2015. Oil prices recovered modestly in 2016 but remained below the prices of 2012-2014. Non-fuel commodity prices also weakened, with the price of food declining by about 22 per cent between 2011 and 2015, which was driven primarily by a drop in cereal prices, owing to higher global cereal production. In 2016, food prices increased slightly by 4 per cent, on average, and further slight increases are expected. Commodity prices are expected to remain low in the near term, thus further weakening growth prospects for commodity exporters.

35. Deteriorating terms of trade led to economic contraction in most of the net oil-exporting least developed countries, including Angola, Chad, Equatorial Guinea, South Sudan and Timor-Leste. Net oil-importing least developed countries, which are expected to gain from low prices on account of improving terms of trade, exhibited subdued growth rates. This suggests that the effect of the declining prices on the economic activities in oil-importing least developed countries has been limited.

E. Human and social development

Education and training

36. Although substantial progress has been made since the beginning of the decade, universal primary education remains a challenge for many least developed countries. Net primary enrolment stands at 83.2 per cent for 2014, compared with 81.9 per cent in 2010. More than 31.95 million children of primary school age were not attending school in the least developed countries for the period 2009-2015. The rate of enrolment in secondary education was low compared with other developing countries. For the period 2009-2015, 19.4 million adolescents of lower secondary school age were not enrolled. High pupil-to-teacher ratios, poor infrastructure, inadequate training and deficiencies in equipment contributed to subpar educational outcomes.

Population and primary health

37. The population of the least developed countries in 2015 was 954 million, an increase of 43 per cent since 2000. Projections indicate that this trend will persist, with an estimated increase in population of 38.9 per cent between 2015 and 2030.

38. Maternal mortality continues to be high. In 2015,the number of maternal deaths per 100,000 live births was 435 for the least developed countries. Less than 40 per cent of mothers and only a quarter of newborns benefit from a postnatal health check within two days of birth. The large segment of the population living in

rural areas, where there is limited access to adequate health facilities and skilled personnel, poses additional difficulties for the adequate provision of services.

Youth development

39. The median age of the population in least developed countries in 2015 was 19.7, the lowest of any country grouping. The fertility rate, which was 4.27 for the period 2010-2015, was also high compared with that of other developing countries. Resources for family planning in the least developed countries are limited, with only 36.3 per cent of women of reproductive age, that are married or in a union, using modern contraceptive methods and 22 per cent having unmet needs for family planning.

Shelter

40. In 2016, 68.1 per cent of the population of the least developed countries lived in rural areas, down from 70.6 per cent in 2011. Internal migration from rural areas has resulted in an increasing share of the population living in urban areas, from 24.4 per cent in 2000 to 31.9 per cent in 2016. Projections indicate that the urban population of the least developed countries will reach 39.3 per cent of their total population by 2030.

41. Currently, half of the urban population of the least developed countries lives in cities with less than 300,000 inhabitants. These cities will experience high population growth, forecast at 3 per cent per year from 2014 to 2030. A tenfold increase is expected in the number of cities with 5 million to 10 million inhabitants. The increase in urban and peri-urban population is often not accompanied by the necessary services and adequate infrastructure. As cities grow, inequalities in access to essential services, such as health, water and sanitation, also increase. In addition, external shocks, such as epidemic emergencies, are compounded by poor infrastructure.

Water and sanitation

42. In the period from 2011 to 2015, 39 million people in least developed countries gained access to an improved source for drinking water, an increase of 7.8 per cent. Yet, 30.8 per cent of the population lacked access in 2015. In rural areas, 38.3 per cent of the population did not have access, while in urban areas, it was 14.3 per cent.

43. In 2015, 62.5 per cent of the population did not have access to improved sanitation facilities, which represents a decrease of 1 per cent from 2014. Since 2011, 62.9 million people have gained access, an increase of 21 per cent over the period 2011-2015.

Gender equality and the empowerment of women

44. Eleven least developed countries have achieved gender parity in school enrolment at the primary level. However, none of them has achieved it at the secondary and tertiary levels. Disparities are larger in secondary education, although some countries display significant progress. The gender gap for tertiary education remains very wide.

45. The representation in parliament has consistently increased over the past 10 years. As at March 2017, 23.5 per cent of seats of parliament in the least developed countries were held by women, an increase of 3.3 per cent since 2011. Six of the top

20 countries by percentage of parliamentary seats held by women were least developed countries.[5]

Social protection

46. Underemployment and precarious employment constitute a serious challenge for least developed countries, with over a third of their total employed population living in extreme poverty. In 2014, the employment-to-population ratio was 69.4 per cent for the population over 15 years of age and 53.4 per cent for those between 15 and 24 years of age.

47. The structural features of the economies of many least developed countries hamper the creation of decent employment. Employment growth for the least developed countries between 2000 and 2014 was 2.8 per cent per annum; for adults, 3.3 per cent per annum; and for youth, only 2.2 per cent, thus lower than average growth rates for the same period.

48. In the least developed countries, the coverage of social protection and labour reaching the poorest quintile of the population was 21 per cent, using the latest available value since 2009. Limited domestic resources and the small space to increase them, given the structure and, in some cases, the size of the economy of the least developed countries, constrain the ability of the public sector to increase social spending. The size of the informal sector is among the factors that make it difficult to reach the poorest in the least developed countries.

F. Multiple crises and other emerging challenges

Economic shocks

49. Global uncertainties continued to affect least developed countries, and, in specific countries, there has been significant economic disruption arising from conflicts, natural disasters and the Ebola virus outbreak as well as declining commodity prices, leading to lower growth.

50. Against this backdrop, the average ratio of total reserves to external debt in least developed countries decreased to 52.4 per cent from 55 per cent the previous year, with an improvement registered only in eight countries. Fourteen least developed countries increased their foreign exchange reserves over the past year. However, on average, debt servicing as a percentage of exports increased in these countries to 7.5 per cent from 6 per cent, with four least developed countries improving performance.

Climate change and environmental sustainability

51. The past year saw global temperature reach a record high, sea level rose unabated, while sea ice reached exceptionally low levels. The strong El Niño event compounded warming from long-term climate change caused by greenhouse gas emissions. Severe droughts threatened millions across southern and eastern Africa and Central America. Tropical storms caused widespread suffering, while heavy rains and floods hit eastern and southern Asia. The least developed countries were severely affected by these events. Food insecurity and the threat of famine

[5] Rwanda (61.3 per cent), Senegal (42.7 per cent), Mozambique (39.6 per cent), Ethiopia (38.8 per cent), Timor-Leste (38.5 per cent) and Angola (38.20 per cent). These figures correspond to the percentage of seats occupied by women in the lower house. Depending on the configuration of the political system, some countries also have an upper house or a senate.

threatened several of these countries, and climate-induced migration was reported to be on the rise in the least developed countries in the Pacific region.

52. Some progress has, however, been made in supporting the least developed countries in addressing the challenge of climate change. By the end of February 2017, the total cumulative donor pledges to the Least Developed Countries Fund for national adaptation programmes of actions amounted to $1.22 billion, while paid contributions totalled $1.14 billion. By March 2017, a total of 248 implementation projects for national adaptation programmes of action had been approved by the Global Environment Facility Council for funding from the Least Developed Countries Fund, while an additional 20 proposals for such projects had been cleared technically and were awaiting the availability of resources. A total of $41.7 million from the Fund was made available to support national adaptation plans in five least developed countries under the National Adaptation Plan Global Support Programme.

53. In addition, the Green Climate Fund has allotted $3 million per country towards the formulation of national adaptation plans. Liberia and Nepal have already accessed this funding. Furthermore, under the Readiness and Preparatory Support Programme of the Fund, for which there is an allocation of up to $1 million per country per year, a total of $5.8 million has been committed to 20 least developed countries. Nine countries have also accessed funding from the Fund for the implementation of adaptation projects. Many least developed countries, however, have difficulties accessing and absorbing climate finance owing to complicated application procedures, as well as limited institutional capacity. Furthermore, these amounts only meet a small fraction of the estimated overall funding required for adaptation.

54. Forests contribute to mitigating climate change by sequestering carbon dioxide. They also help to preserve biological diversity, combat soil erosion and provide ecosystem services and economic benefits. Deforestation continues to be an issue of concern in least developed countries, with forested areas declining over the past year in in all but three of these countries.

Disaster risk reduction

55. Disasters caused by climate extremes such as droughts, tropical cyclones and severe storms, floods and heat waves lead to significant loss of life and socioeconomic impacts. Disasters can significantly compromise development and growth, particularly in countries with the least capacity to respond.

56. In October 2016, the south of Haiti was hit by Hurricane Mathew. Much of the area's infrastructure was destroyed, including communications, transport, health facilities and schools. In March 2017, Cyclone Enawo affected almost half a million people in Madagascar, destroying more than 40,000 houses and up to 85 per cent of the planted subsistence crops in some areas.

57. The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, adopted at the Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (see General Assembly resolution 69/283, annex II), recognizes the special needs faced by least developed countries (as well as certain other groups of countries), in view of their higher vulnerability and risk levels, which often greatly exceed their capacity to respond to and recover from disasters. In response to Sendai target 18 (g), the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, the World Meteorological Organization and the World Bank, together with other partners, launched the Climate Risk and Early Warning Systems initiative, which aims to increase significantly the capacity for multi-hazard early warning systems in small island developing States and least developed countries. Under this initiative, by 2020, all

relevant small island developing States and least developed countries are expected to have at least moderate early warning systems and risk information capacities. The initiative aims to mobilize $100 million by 2020 in order to fill the gaps in the exiting bilateral and multilateral cooperation programmes. A trust fund hosted by the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery will support the development of implementing institutions and organizations and their activities.

G. Mobilizing financial resources for development and capacity-building

Domestic resource mobilization

58. The rate of gross domestic savings as a percentage of GDP in least developed countries declined from 16.2 per cent in 2014 to 12.9 per cent in 2015, which was triggered by lower commodity revenues and growth. The exceptionally low domestic revenues by Governments of least developed countries are the by-product of their economic structures, high poverty rates, weak tax administration and the nature of their tax systems. However, in recent years most least developed countries were able to increase their tax revenue as a percentage of GDP from a median of 13.0 per cent in 2010 to 14.8 per cent in 2014. Thus, around half of the these countries reached tax revenues of 15per cent of GDP or above, which is considered to be the minimum below which countries face serious difficulties in executing basic State functions. This has been driven by reforms of the tax system in many least developed countries in order to reduce tax evasion, broaden the tax base and enhance transparency. In several least developed countries, revenue authorities have been removed from ministries and set up as autonomous units.

59. To enhance domestic resource mobilization, ODA towards the tax system has increased. The share of aid specific to tax policy and administration of total ODA to least developed countries by members of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Development Assistance Committee increased from 0.06 per cent in 2014 to 0.30 per cent in 2015, but this aid was concentrated in only a very small number of those countries.

Official development assistance

60. Total ODA from OECD Development Assistance Committee countries to least developed countries declined from $41 billion in 2014 to $37.3 billion in nominal terms in 2015, whereas in real terms, it increased by 8 per cent owing to the depreciation of the currencies of the members of the Development Assistance Committee against the United States dollar. Preliminary data show that bilateral net ODA to least developed countries was $24 billion in 2016, representing a fall of 3.9 per cent in real terms compared with 2015. In 2015, 28 per cent of total ODA was allocated to least developed countries, down from 30 per cent in 2014. Seven OECD Development Assistance Committee donors (Denmark, Finland, Ireland, Luxembourg, Norway, Sweden and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) reached the goal of providing at least 0.15 per cent of gross national income in ODA to least developed countries, down from 8 donors in 2014 and 9 in 2013. The overall share of ODA in the donors' gross national income remained constant at 0.09 per cent, far below the lower end of 0.15 per cent called for in the Istanbul Programme of Action and the Sustainable Development Goals. Ireland provided the highest share of ODA to least developed countries, with 48 per cent. Belgium has committed to send at least half of its ODA to least developed

countries by 2019.[6] In several cases, development partners have designated a large share of least developed countries as focus countries. For example, 11 of the 12 focus countries of Norway are least developed countries.[7]

61. Progress with respect to the quality of aid has also been slow, according to the OECD progress report of 2016 on making development cooperation more effective. The annual predictability of ODA[8] did not increase overall and was still lower in least developed countries (79 per cent) than in other developing countries (88 per cent) in 2015. The use of country systems[9] has slightly improved but was also much lower in least developed countries (45 per cent) than in other developing countries (56 per cent).

External debt

62. The external debt burden of least developed countries increased from 25.6 per cent of GDP in 2014 to 28.8 per cent in 2015, surpassing its previous peak of 27.2per cent in 2010. During that period, Mozambique and Zambia registered the largest percentage point increases (17.6 per cent and 14.9 per cent, respectively), while 13 least developed countries saw their debt to GDP burden decrease somewhat in 2015, with the biggest drops in the Sudan, Somalia and Chad. To avoid unsustainable debt, situations new attempts for sovereign debt restructuring need to be considered.

Foreign direct investment

63. Foreign direct investment (FDI) flows to the least developed countries increased by one third in 2015 to $35 billion, led by greenfield investment projects. Around half of all greenfield investment in these countries originated from developing countries. However, FDI flows to least developed countries account only for 2 per cent of world FDI.

64. Furthermore, FDI inflows are concentrated in a few mineral and oil extracting countries. However, in 2015 and early 2016, FDI inflows in several least developed countries also increased in the services sector (electricity, gas and water, construction and transport) and in light manufacturing, including food and beverages, namely in Bhutan, Ethiopia, Mozambique, Myanmar, Rwanda, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia. This is attributable in part to changes in policies. Proximity to major markets also played a role.

65. The sources of FDI also changed over the past years. Greenfield FDI projects from developed countries amounted to $17.5 billion in 2015, compared with $28 billion from developing economies. Most of this was from Asia, but African investors also provided a significant amount of $4.9 billion.

66. Some developed countries have specialized agencies that provide long-term financing for private sector FDI projects through loans and equity financing. However, most providers allocate relatively small shares of their support to least developed countries.

[6] Statement by Belgium at the Annual Ministerial Meeting, 24 Sept 2016.
[7] Statement by Norway at the Annual Ministerial Meeting, 24 Sept 2016.
[8] As measured by the proportion of development cooperation funding that is disbursed to a country's Government within the fiscal year in which development partners schedule it.
[9] As measured by the proportion of development cooperation disbursed for the public sector using the country's own public financial management and procurement systems.

Remittances

67. Remittance flows to least developed countries continue to increase and have reached $37.5 billion in 2015, up from $36.2 billion in 2014, amounting to more than 4 per cent of GDP. The five largest recipients of remittances as a share of their GDP in 2015 were Nepal (32 per cent), Liberia (31 per cent), Haiti (25 per cent), Comoros (23 per cent) and the Gambia (19 per cent). While remittances are private flows, they can stimulate demand for formal money transfer channels, which in turn provides greater opportunities for banks to extend credit for productive investment.

68. The average cost of sending remittances to least developed countries (including a transaction fee and an exchange rate margin) has declined somewhat, from 11.5 per cent of the amount transferred in 2012 to 9.6 per cent in 2015. However, this is still well above the amount agreed in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (less than 3 per cent).

II. Good governance at all levels

69. In 2016, Bhutan ratified the United Nations Convention against Corruption,[10] bringing the total number of least developed countries being parties to the agreement to 43. Sustainable Development Goals target 16.5, to substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms, is expected to encourage efforts to curb corruption, which could be fostered through enhanced participation in the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative and the spread of e-governance.

70. As at June 2016, 14 least developed countries were considered compliant with the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative, and 6 least developed countries became candidate countries. Implementing the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative Standard improves government systems and can lead to improved tax collection and budgetary planning. It also signals commitment to the transparent and accountable management of natural resources. For example, Timor-Leste has made meaningful progress in implementing the Standard in its oil sector. A validation report of 2017 noted that recent information about licenses, production, revenues and spending of the petroleum fund was readily available to the public.

71. E-government aims at increasing participation in decision-making, and making public institutions more transparent and accountable through electronic and mobile services. It can contribute to making public services delivery more effective, accessible and responsive to people's needs. Bridging the digital divide has been identified as a crucial factor for advances in e-government. Making data, for example on government spending, available online is also a crucial element of enhanced transparency. There is empirical evidence that countries with high corruption rates in the public sector generally score poorly on their ability to deliver public services by information and communications technologies, including the provision of open government data.

72. The average e-government development index for least developed countries increased somewhat, from 0.21 in 2014 to 0.24 in 2016. The number of least developed countries with development index values of less than 0.25 remained largely constant at 29 in 2016. Most of these countries have extremely low ratings for telecommunications infrastructure. Countries that have progressed from low to middle development index levels are Nepal, Togo and Zambia. The highest ratings of more than 0.45 are held by Bangladesh, Bhutan, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania. Meanwhile Congo, Madagascar and Yemen have fallen from middle to

[10] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2349, No. 42146.

low development index levels, owing to adverse political and socioeconomic conditions.[11]

73. The least developed countries are disproportionally affected by armed conflict. Of the 14 countries with grave violations against children during armed conflict on the agenda of the Security Council in 2015, 9 were least developed countries. This has long-term effects on development outcomes, as it destroys productive assets and social capital. Children are very vulnerable in armed conflicts and suffer long-term consequences owing to a lack of education and poor health. Children are also most at risk in the three famine-affected least developed countries — Somalia, South Sudan and Yemen — with around 1 million at imminent risk of death in 2017 from severe malnutrition. Furthermore, armed conflicts have resulted in forced displacement, internally and externally (see A/70/836-S/2016/360). Thus, the least developed countries and development partners need to put more emphasis on conflict prevention.

III. Performance and prospects towards graduation

74. Progress towards the target of half the number of least developed countries meeting the criteria for graduation by 2020 has accelerated. Samoa graduated in January 2014 and 10 additional least developed countries reached the graduation thresholds in 2015. Equatorial Guinea is scheduled to graduate in June 2017, Vanuatu in 2020 and Angola in 2021. Five least developed countries (Bhutan, Nepal, Sao Tome and Principe, Solomon Islands and Timor-Leste) met the graduation thresholds for the first time in 2015. These five countries and Kiribati,[12] which met the graduation thresholds for the second time in 2015, will be considered for possible graduation at the next triennial review of the Committee for Development Policy in 2018.

75. Several least developed countries have set explicit timetables for graduation and are pursuing the attainment of the three graduation criteria — gross national income per capita, the human assets index and the economic vulnerability index. Furthermore, several countries have established institutions to support and monitor their graduation process. Progress towards reaching the graduation criteria is also closely linked with other development frameworks. For example Sustainable Development Goal 8.1 reiterates the target set in the Istanbul Programme of Action of 7 per cent growth of GDP per year. The components of the human assets index relate to health and education, which also feature prominently in the Sustainable Development Goals and are crucial for sustainable development. In recent years, the focus of the international community towards reducing vulnerability has increased, including through the Sendai Framework, and least developed countries have made efforts with respect to disaster risk reduction. However, only one of the group of least developed countries that are otherwise meeting the graduation criteria has met the economic vulnerability index threshold so far (Nepal).

76. The least developed countries that are scheduled for graduation are at different stages of preparations for a smooth transition.[13] The Government of Angola has started to work on a road map for a smooth transition strategy, with support from the

[11] *United Nations E-Government Survey 2016* (United Nations publication, Sales No. 16.II.H.2).

[12] Owing to Kiribati scoring the highest on the vulnerability index among all countries and associated concerns on the sustainability of its current level of income, the Committee for Development Policy decided to defer its decision on a recommendation on Kiribati's graduation to 2018.

[13] The CDP undertakes regular monitoring of the Graduated and Graduating Countries from the LDC category, see E/2017/33.

United Nations system, and has established an advisory committee. It is also planning to start a consultative process with relevant stakeholders, including development and trading partners as well as the private sector. For Equatorial Guinea, the impact of graduation is expected to be minimal, as the country did not benefit significantly from support measures specific to least developed countries. In 2015, a graduation process report by the Government and UNDP suggested actions regarding the smooth transition process.

IV. Engagement of stakeholders in the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action

77. The Midterm Review of the Istanbul Programme of Action provided an opportunity for all stakeholders to recommit to the internationally agreed programme to lift the least developed countries from poverty. It was preceded by various consultations at the national, regional and global levels and brought together high-level officials and representatives from Governments, parliaments, international and regional organizations, civil society, the private sector, foundations, think tanks and the media. The political declaration outlines concrete actions and initiatives in support of least developed countries and reaffirms the importance of effective and durable multi-stakeholder partnerships (see A/CONF.228/3, chap. I).

78. In the lead-up to the Midterm Review, 32 least developed countries prepared their national reports assessing progress in the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action during the first five years. These reports were discussed in the workshop of national focal points of the least developed countries, and the United Nations Office of the High Representative prepared a report entitled "Lessons learned from five years of implementing the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries".[14]

79. As reflected in section II above, the least developed countries have made progress in the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action and there has been a range of efforts by these countries to integrate the Programme of Action in their national planning documents. Ethiopia mainstreamed the Programme of Action into its first Growth and Transformation Plan (2010-2015) as well as into the second Plan (2015-2020) and has continued to implement the Programme as an integral part of its national development programmes. This has resulted in pro-poor economic growth and improvements in the mobilization of domestic resources.[15] Similarly, the Lao People's Democratic Republic has remained committed to the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action, incorporating it into the current eighth Five-Year Socioeconomic Development Plan 2016–2020, which focuses on the three graduation criteria and the three dimensions of sustainable development.

80. Many least developed countries have faced challenges owing to the large number of development frameworks they have agreed to mainstream, including global agreements such as Agenda 2030 and the Paris Agreement, as well as regional agreements such as Agenda 2063 of the African Union and the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014-2024. While there are synergies, especially between the 2030 Agenda and the Istanbul Programme of Action, these frameworks have different monitoring mechanisms, creating added burdens related to data collection and reporting.

[14] Available from www.ipuarview.org/lessons-learned.

[15] Statement by Ethiopia at the Annual Ministerial Meeting, 24 Sept 2016.

81. Structural constraints have also hindered the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action. In Liberia, the impacts from the Ebola virus outbreak, and declining global commodity prices, have continued to affect the implementation of the national development plan and the achievement of objectives under the Programme of Action. An effective implementation of the post-Ebola economic recovery plan for Liberia is critical for stabilizing and spurring rapid social and economic recovery, while at the same time, it can help to improve the economy's resilience to any future shocks.[16] Likewise, many least developed countries in conflict situations have struggled to mainstream and implement the Istanbul Programme of Action.

82. Many bilateral donors have continued to provide support for the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action. The Government of Italy, with the International Development Law Organization and the United Nations Office of the High Representative have launched a new initiative on investment advisory support to the least developed countries, building on the potential of FDI to help the economies of those countries to diversify, reduce their dependence on commodities and promote new activities in the manufacturing and services sectors.

83. Several countries have provided funds to WTO to help least developed countries to increase their participation in multilateral trade negotiations, including support for training workshops for government officials to improve their negotiation skills.

84. South-South cooperation has intensified and new initiatives in support of least developed countries have been launched in recent years. Following the High-level Round Table on South-South Cooperation, organized jointly by United Nations Office of the High Representative and China in 2015, the Institute of South-South Cooperation and Development was established in May 2016. The Institute is one of several institutions offering masters and doctoral programmes focused on national development, to students from least developed countries.

85. Civil society has continued to contribute actively to the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action and offers perspectives from groups working in the least developed countries. The four-day long LDC Civil Society Forum, which was organized by LDC Watch, in collaboration with the United Nations Office of the High Representative, on the margins of the Midterm Review, resulted in the Antalya Declaration,[17] reiterating the statement "No SDGs without LDCs" and underscoring the need for increased synergy and coherence between the Programme of Action and other recently agreed internationally agreed development goals.

86. Academia has continued to engage in the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action. Prior to the Midterm Review, LDC IV Monitor, a partnership of think tanks and international organizations, produced the report *Tracking Progress, Accelerating Transformation: Achieving the Istanbul Programme of Action by 2020*.[18] The report, which was presented at a side event during the Midterm Review, highlighted recent accomplishments, missed opportunities and key challenges for the least developed countries.. Furthermore, half of the members of the Governing Council of the Technology Bank for the Least Developed Countries have academic backgrounds.

87. Members of parliament held a parallel event at the midterm review to assess the contribution of national parliaments to the implementation of the Istanbul

[16] Report submitted by Liberia for the Midterm Review.
[17] Available from http://www.ldcwatch.org/.
[18] Available from http://ldc4monitor.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/Achieving-the-Istanbul-Programme-of-Action-by-2020.pdf.

Programme of Action and explore ways to further strengthen it. Participants reaffirmed their commitment to the implementation of the Programme of Action and the importance of including it as part of national legislative agendas.

88. The private sector has shown an increasing interest in the Istanbul Programme of Action. The United Nations Office of the High Representative, in cooperation with the World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies, organized a private sector forum on investment opportunities in least developed countries, in May 2016. The Forum brought together about 300 participants and speakers from the least developed countries, investment promotion agencies, the private sector, financial institutions and investors. The importance of better alignment and coordination between trade and investment policies at the national level was underscored by speakers at the forum, as was the need to increasingly focus on small and medium-sized enterprises and entrepreneurs.

89. The private sector was also represented at meetings co-organized by the United Nations Office of the High Representative and respective Governments. Regional meetings of the least developed countries in Africa and the Asia-Pacific region, on financing sustainable energy, were organized in the United Republic of Tanzania in December 2016 and in Nepal in March 2017, respectively, with a focus on increasing private sector contributions towards energy investment. Likewise, representatives of the private sector attended a multi-stakeholder regional meeting for the least developed countries in African, in Senegal in February and March 2017.[19]

90. In 2016, the United Nations Office of the High Representative continued to coordinate the Organization's support for the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action. The Toolkit for Mainstreaming the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries[20] was launched at the high-level event during the Midterm Review. In addition, the implementation of the Programme of Action by the United Nations system is discussed in the framework of the Inter-Agency Consultative Meeting on the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries.

V. Conclusions and recommendations

91. The implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action, including the Midterm Review, can enhance progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and vice versa, as a result of interlinkages and synergies. However, more focus by least developed countries and development partners is needed, especially in those areas that were not explicitly addressed under the Millennium Development Goals, such as productive capacity-building, adaptation to climate change and sustainable energy solutions.

92. The recent slowdown in growth, famine-linked humanitarian crises and the relatively slow reduction in poverty all highlight the need to diversify production and exports and enhance agricultural productivity. There is consensus that building infrastructure, especially in ICT and energy, is a precondition for reaching all of the Sustainable Development Goals, and thus financing such infrastructure from all sources needs to increase rapidly. There is also a need to enhance the capacity of Governments to design policies to ensure that accelerated growth will be sustainable and to leave no one behind.

[19] For details, see http://unohrlls.org/ldcs-meetings-archive/.
[20] Available from http://unohrlls.org/mainstreamingthcipoa/.

93. Least developed countries still lag far behind other countries in science, technology and innovation. Thus the funding and operationalization of the Technology Bank needs to be implemented in 2017, in line with the Sustainable Developments Goals, in order to help trigger greater productive capacity and sustainability, and accelerate progress in health and education.

94. As agriculture still employs the largest share of the population in most least developed countries, the development of the sector is crucial. Agriculture faces tremendous challenges from the impacts of climate change. These countries need to revitalize support for the agricultural sector, including through agricultural extension services and urban-rural connectivity. At the same time, support is needed to develop climate-resistant higher-yield varieties of staple foods in least developed countries.

95. The decline in the share of least developed countries in total trade is partly a result of declining commodity prices and a slowdown in world trade. Should these trends continue, it will be very difficult for these countries to meet certain targets set in the Istanbul Programme of Action and the Sustainable Development Goals. Enhanced support is needed beyond duty-free and quota-free market access for exports of goods. The least developed country services waiver needs to be implemented and these countries need support to implement the Agreement on Trade Facilitation.

96. The deterioration in economic prospects for the majority of commodity exporters underscores the need for least developed countries to expand their export base. It is essential that mechanisms be developed to mitigate and manage risks associated with commodity price shocks. For example, commodity-rich countries should consider creating sovereign wealth funds or stabilization funds that can be utilized during periods of significant reduction in commodity revenue. Other options include creating tighter fiscal rules and deploying countercyclical macroeconomic policies.

97. With respect to enhancing human development, major efforts are needed to reduce poverty through employment creation. One crucial area is infrastructure for education, including vocational training. Access to reference materials, adequate facilities and necessary equipment is critical, as well as an enhanced focus on qualifications for which there is high demand. Furthermore, understanding the interlinkages between improvements in health and nutrition and better educational outcomes should be taken into account when designing policy interventions.

98. The effects of climate change are being felt in least developed countries, exacerbated by the recent El Niño phenomenon, as evidenced by drought in a number of least developed countries in Africa, and by tropical storms that devastated parts of Haiti and Madagascar. The international community needs to step up efforts to meet the targets of the Paris Agreement, increase the level of ambition, scale-up support for adaptation and mitigation to climate change, and make this support more accessible to the least developed countries.

99. More investment — public and private, as well as domestic and external — should be channelled into productive capacity-building, including infrastructure, energy and private sector development, in order to enable structural transformation and to enhance the tax base in the long term.

100. In order to enhance domestic resource mobilization and at the same time enhance growth and equality, the analysis of the effects of taxation in least developed countries — including compliance costs — needs to be improved. Furthermore, support for tax reforms in these countries needs to be customized to fit country conditions and strengthen country ownership and leadership.

101. Despite improvements from some donors, the ODA target of the Istanbul Programme of Action has not been achieved, limiting the ability of least developed countries to invest in infrastructure and service provision in order to enhance productive capacity and reduce poverty. Efforts to reach the ODA target of 0.15-0.2 per cent of gross national income of ODA to least developed countries should be stepped up and aid should be more predictable and aligned with the priorities of these countries.

102. The international community should increase coordinated investment support for least developed countries with the contribution of all stakeholders, in line with decisions set out in paragraph 46 of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda to adopt and implement investment promotion regimes, including (a) financial and technical support for project preparation and contract negotiation, (b) advisory support in investment-related dispute resolution, (c) access to information on investment facilities and (d) enhanced risk insurance and guarantees, such as those available through the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency.

103. The principle set out in the Istanbul Programme of Action of country ownership and leadership remains crucial in order to accelerate progress with respect to sustainable development in least developed countries. In this respect, governance is a key element, which includes: improved institutions, the formulation of coherent economic and development policies and strategies and the alignment of resource allocations with national priorities. The statistical capacity of least developed countries also needs to be strengthened in order to design evidence-based policies and improve monitoring of the implementation of various agreements.

104. Recent progress towards graduation from the least developed country category is encouraging, with several of these countries having expressed their aspiration to graduate from the category by 2020 or shortly thereafter. Upon request by graduating and aspiring-to-graduate countries, United Nations support, under the leadership of the United Nations Office of the High Representative, has been stepped up in recent years. Substantive activities and operational programmes of the United Nations Office of the High Representative in support of graduating least developed countries need to be enhanced to match the expected increased demand as more of those countries move towards graduation in the years ahead. Comprehensive support measures in the areas of ODA, trade, investment, technology, and debt sustainability are needed to ensure the smooth transition of countries that have graduated from least developed country status. In order to enhance the effectiveness of smooth transition measures, monitoring and follow-up needs to be further strengthened.

105. There are many encouraging examples of global partnerships with least developed countries. Nevertheless, to fully achieve the overarching goals of the Istanbul Programme of Action and the Sustainable Development Goals, an increased number of development partners should align their national development cooperation strategies with the Programme of Action, including by complying with the ODA targets set in the Istanbul Programme of Action,[21] as recalled in the political declaration of the midterm review. In addition, continuous efforts are needed to ensure the increased predictability and transparency of aid.

106. South-South and triangular cooperation need to be deepened and scaled up, through a more institutionalized approach to collaboration. Deploying financing from all sources, including innovative sources, can have a positive impact on the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action.

[21] 0.15-0.20 per cent of donor gross national income provided as aid to least developed countries.

107. During the remaining four years of the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action, all stakeholders will have an important role to play in achieving the global goals. Synergies and complementarities between the Programme of Action and the 2030 Agenda and other recent frameworks need to be taken into account, and the monitoring of these various agendas at the national, regional and global levels needs to be aligned.

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Coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report has been prepared pursuant to paragraph 3 of Economic and Social Council resolution 2016/24. It describes the activities undertaken by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) in cooperation with other entities and organizations of the United Nations system in the coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda.

The report concludes with four recommendations, calling upon Member States to:

(a) Work towards the implementation of the New Urban Agenda adopted at the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), held in Quito in 2016, building on the Habitat Agenda adopted at the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, held in Istanbul, Turkey, in 1996;

(b) Support, including financially, the work of UN-Habitat as a focal point for sustainable urbanization and human settlements development, including in the implementation, follow-up and review of the New Urban Agenda, in collaboration with other United Nations entities;

(c) Promote the leadership role of national Governments in the definition and elaboration of national urban policies;

(d) Strengthen subnational and local governments in the local implementation of the New Urban Agenda.

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I. Introduction

1. The present report has been prepared pursuant to paragraph 3 of Economic and Social Council resolution 2016/24.

2. During the reporting period, the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) enhanced its cooperation with United Nations system organizations and agencies, as well as other partners, including national, subnational and local governments, intergovernmental organizations, development institutions, civil society organizations, the private sector, professional associations, and research and training institutions.

3. The activities described in the present report refer to the coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda and the preparations undertaken for the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III). The outcome document of Habitat III, the New Urban Agenda, adopted in Quito in October 2016, builds on the Habitat Agenda adopted at the United Nations Conference on Human settlements (Habitat II) in 1996, and defines a common vision for implementing sustainable urban development in the next decades.

II. Activities at the global level

A. United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development

4. By its resolution 66/207, and in line with the bi-decennial cycle, the General Assembly decided to convene Habitat III in order to reinvigorate the global commitment to sustainable urbanization that should focus on the implementation of a New Urban Agenda, which should build on the Habitat Agenda.

5. Habitat III was held in Quito from 17 to 20 October 2016. With 30,000 participants, the New Urban Agenda was adopted without reservations by all participating States on 20 October 2016. Subsequently, the General Assembly, in its resolution 71/256, adopted it on 23 December 2016.

6. In the New Urban Agenda, urbanization is framed as a strategic issue, both for local and national governments, consolidating the vision of urbanization as an endogenous source of development and setting a new global standard for sustainable urban development. It serves as a 20-year road map towards sustainable urbanization in an increasingly urbanizing world. It underscores the need to take advantage of the opportunities presented by urbanization as an engine of sustained and inclusive economic growth, social and cultural development, and environmental protection, and of its potential contribution to the achievement of transformative and sustainable development.

Preparations for Habitat III

7. As part of the preparations for the Conference, a United Nations task team on Habitat III was established in January 2015, comprising more than 40 agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system. It prepared inputs for the preparatory process in the form of issue papers on 22 key urban topics. Ten policy units were created, each of which was co-lead by two organizations and institutions working on urban issues. The units were composed of 20 experts, representing a variety of sectors, including academic institutions, government, civil society and regional and international bodies, who prepared 10 policy papers for Habitat III.

8. At the regional level, four meetings were held: in Jakarta in October 2015; in Abuja in February 2016; in Prague in March 2016; and in Toluca, Mexico, in April 2016. The regional meetings provided recommendations in the form of regional declarations that served as official inputs for the preparations of the zero draft of the Habitat III outcome document.

9. A series of thematic meetings were also held between September 2015 and April 2016: in Tel-Aviv, Israel, in September 2015, on civic engagement; in Montreal, Canada, in October 2015, on metropolitan areas; in Cuenca, Ecuador, in November 2015, on intermediate cities; in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, in January 2016, on sustainable energy and cities; in Mexico City in March 2016, on financing urban development; in Barcelona, Spain, in April 2016, on public spaces; and in Pretoria in April 2016, on informal settlements.

10. Open-ended informal consultative meetings were held in New York from 25 to 29 April 2016. The purpose of the meetings was to provide an opportunity for feedback on the conclusions of the Habitat III policy units and the regional and thematic meetings before the Bureau of the Habitat III Preparatory Committee submitted the zero draft of the New Urban Agenda on 6 May 2016.

11. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 70/210, representatives of local authorities' associations and of major groups and other stakeholders were invited to informal hearings, convened over a two-day period in both May and June 2016, to facilitate an exchange views with Member States on the zero draft of the New Urban Agenda.

12. The informal hearings were arranged through a unique partnership with the General Assembly of Partners, which coordinated the participation of 16 distinct partner constituent groups, including Habitat Agenda partners, Agenda 21 major groups and other key constituencies relevant to sustainable urban issues, and with the Global Task Force of Local and Regional Governments, which coordinated the participation of major international networks of local governments. The General Assembly of Partners and the Global Task Force ensured the participation and active engagement of stakeholders throughout the Habitat III preparatory process and during the Conference.

13. The third and final session of the Habitat III Preparatory Committee was hosted by the Government of Indonesia in Surabaya, from 25 to 27 July 2016. Member States discussed an advanced draft of the New Urban Agenda but were not able to reach an agreement on a number of issues at the time. A final round of informal intergovernmental negotiations on the New Urban Agenda was held in New York from 7 to 10 September 2016, at the end of which consensus was reached on the final draft outcome document of the Habitat III.

14. UN-Habitat played a prominent role in the preparatory process for Habitat III and in the development of the outcome document. Among other activities, UN-Habitat co-led the policy unit for national urban policies and provided technical support to several other policy units. It led or co-led the development of 18 of the 22 Habitat III issues papers. In addition, UN-Habitat worked closely with the regional commissions and the Habitat III secretariat, in the elaboration of the Habitat III regional reports. UN-Habitat provided technical advisory services to numerous countries with regard to the development of Habitat III national reports.

15. During the Conference, UN-Habitat led or co-led over 60 events with the participation of a wide range of United Nations system agencies and organizations, intergovernmental organizations outside the United Nations system, non-governmental organizations, mayors and local authorities, universities, research institutions, youth and women's organizations, individual experts, the private sector,

the Bretton Woods institutions and other Habitat Agenda partners. UN-Habitat also contributed to the high-level round tables, dialogues, assemblies and special sessions that were held during the Conference.

16. As part of the follow-up to and review of the New Urban Agenda, and with a view to enhancing the effectiveness of UN-Habitat, the General Assembly, in paragraph 172 of its resolution 71/256, requested the Secretary-General to submit an evidence-based and independent assessment of UN-Habitat to the Assembly during its seventy-first session. The result of the assessment would be a report containing recommendations on enhancing the effectiveness, efficiency, accountability and oversight of UN-Habitat. The report would serve as an input for a two-day high-level meeting of the Assembly, to be convened by the President of the Assembly during the seventy-first session, to discuss the effective implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the positioning of UN-Habitat in that regard. A Chair's summary of the meeting would serve as an input for consideration by the Second Committee during the seventy-second session of the Assembly, in the light of the recommendations contained in the independent assessment.

B. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals

17. Since the creation of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goals Indicators by the Statistical Commission in 2015, UN-Habitat has supported and assisted Member States and national statistical offices in the development and definition of indicators and the preparation of metadata, including specific proposals for data collection analysis and the use of spatial information for the disaggregation of data. UN-Habitat actively participated in the meetings organized by the Inter-Agency and Expert Group in 2016.

18. The monitoring of cities in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals and the New Urban Agenda poses challenges to UN-Habitat since it has not been possible to monitor all the cities of every country. In order to be able to undertake this activity at the global level, there is therefore a need to further develop the national approach to monitoring sample cities. In this regard, UN-Habitat has been advocating for member States to adopt such an approach as an effective alternative and reliable option. In addition, UN-Habitat has found that new partnerships and collaborations are required in order to more effectively monitor certain spatially dependent indicators.

19. UN-Habitat also coordinated the inputs of other United Nations system entities and development partners on the review and refinement of the indicators for Goal 11 and for other Goals with an urban dimension. UN-Habitat organized thematic expert group meetings on various targets and indicators, coordinated work stream groups with the World Bank and United Nations partner organizations on specific indicators and prepared a global monitoring framework guide for Goal 11, a simplified concept for applying the national sample of cities and a work plan and strategy to transform tier III indicators into tier II indicators, as part of the process to refine the indicators, in line with the suggestions and requests of the Statistical Commission in 2016. UN-Habitat contributed storylines to the first annual report of the Secretary-General on the Sustainable Development Goals, which was issued in 2016 and featured the reporting process on four of the indicators for Goal 11.

20. In January 2017, UN-Habitat organized an expert group meeting on indicator 11.6.1, on urban solid waste, for experts and practitioners, including a number of United Nations system entities, such as the Environmental Statistics Section of the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the

Secretariat and the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, to work on refining the indicator.

21. UN-Habitat continued to work with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the World Meteorological Organization to develop a global framework for monitoring progress on the Sustainable Development Goal 6 targets, under the umbrella of UN-Water. Established in 2014, with UN-Habitat, UNEP and WHO as lead agencies, the Global Expanded Monitoring Initiative has developed monitoring methodologies that are currently being piloted in seven proof-of-concept countries: Bangladesh, Fiji, Jordan, Netherlands, Peru, Senegal and Uganda.

22. UN-Habitat took part in the annual meeting of UN-Energy, organized at the margins of the twenty-second session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, held in Marrakech, Morocco, in 2016, in which 11 other United Nations agencies participated to review their work on energy issues, in particular on the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 7 in the context of mitigating the impacts of climate change.

23. UN-Habitat delivered a break-out session on poverty, inequality and youth participation in urban areas during the annual Economic and Social Council Youth Forum held in New York on 1 February 2017. UN-Habitat coordinated with the United Nations Population Fund and the Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality Youth Assembly to host a youth summit in the lead-up to the World Humanitarian Summit held in Istanbul, Turkey, in May 2016,. The Compact for Young People in Humanitarian Action was launched during the youth summit with the support of over 25 different government and non-government entities. Together with Nexus Brazil, UN-Habitat hosted a high-level event in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, during the 2016 Olympics to discuss the power of sport to drive social change, in particular with regard to youth and the Sustainable Development Goals.

C. United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination and related mechanism

24. UN-Habitat continued to participate in the Chief Executives Board for Coordination and its three pillars, namely, the High-level Committee on Programmes, the High-level Committee on Management and the United Nations Development Group.

25. At its first regular session for 2016, held in Vienna on 27 and 28 April, the United Nations Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) endorsed the paper entitled "Urbanization and sustainable development: a United Nations system input to a New Urban Agenda", which called for a coherent and coordinated approach to urbanization across the United Nations system.

26. Despite the challenges caused by not being a resident agency in many countries, UN-Habitat regularly participated in thematic and coordination meetings of the United Nations Development Group in order to promote a better understanding of sustainable urban development and ensure a more appropriate reflection of its priorities within multilateral programming instruments and the development of joint programmes and activities.

27. In May 2016, UN-Habitat partnered with the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) to organize a dialogue in New York on human rights and urbanization for the United Nations Development

Group-Human Rights Working Group dialogue series on frontier issues. The aim of the dialogue series was to provide leadership on the human rights implications of some of the key challenges facing the international community today and on how human rights can facilitate strategic solutions that place the dignity of the human person at the centre of the United Nations system's efforts to respond to the challenges.

D. *World Cities Report*

28. UN-Habitat produced its new flagship report, the *World Cities Report*. The publication is the first edition of the series and follows the amalgamation of the two previous flagship global reports of UN-Habitat, the *Global Report on Human Settlements* and *The State of the World's Cities*.

29. The 2016 report, entitled *Urbanization and Development: Emerging Futures — World Cities Report 2016*, provides an analysis of urban development over the past 20 years, reflecting new forms of collaboration and cooperation, planning, governance, finance and learning that would be used to sustain positive change. According to the report, the current model of urbanization is unsustainable in many respects. In that regard, the report contains proposals on ways to change the current pattern of urbanization in order to better respond to current and emerging challenges, including on issues such as inequality, climate change, informality and insecurity.

E. World Habitat Day and World Cities Day

30. The theme of World Habitat Day 2016 was "Housing at the centre", and the global observance was held in Njamena. The theme of World Cities Day 2016 was "Inclusive cities, shared development", and the global observance was held in Quito on 31 October, a few days after Habitat III had concluded and the New Urban Agenda had been adopted.

31. UN-Habitat has continued the collaboration with the International Exhibitions Bureau, Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development, China, and the Shanghai Municipality. The collaboration resulted in the publication of the second edition of the "Shanghai manual 2016 — a guide for sustainable urban development in the twenty-first century".

F. World Urban Campaign

32. The World Urban Campaign has continued to play a central role in global advocacy by raising awareness on urbanization challenges, solutions and opportunities. During the reporting period, the Campaign grew considerably in terms of visibility and engagement, including with 188 partners and members.

33. During 2016, Campaign partners engaged in the elaboration of specific recommendations and "urban solutions" in order to achieve the goals and priorities set out in the report entitled "The city we need". The report is a global manifesto prepared at, and reflecting the outcomes of, 26 "urban thinkers campuses", which engaged approximately 7,800 participants and 2,200 organizations. The most compelling messages were disseminated through several channels to showcase solutions and generate commitments in advance of the convening of Habitat III.

III. Activities at the regional level

34. At the regional level, UN-Habitat continued to work closely with national Governments in the preparations for regional ministerial meetings. It worked collaboratively with other United Nations system organizations, namely, the regional economic commissions, and with regional intergovernmental organizations outside the United Nations system, including regional financial institutions.

A. Regional ministerial meetings

African Ministerial Forum on Housing and Urban Development

35. With the support of UN-Habitat, the Government of Morocco organized the first African Ministerial Forum on Housing and Urban Development, which was held in Rabat in May 2016 on the theme "Urban policies and sustainable development". Ministers adopted the Rabat Declaration. The Government of Senegal agreed to host the next session of the Forum in Dakar in 2018.

Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development

36. The sixth Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development was hosted by the Government of India in New Delhi in December 2016. It was the first major regional meeting of ministers of housing and urban development since the conclusion of Habitat III and the adoption of the New Urban Agenda. UN-Habitat provided significant technical support.

General Assembly of Ministers and High-level Authorities of Housing and Urban Development of Latin America and the Caribbean

37. UN-Habitat has initiated preparations for the forthcoming twenty-sixth General Assembly of Ministers and High-level Authorities of the Housing and Urban Development Sector of Latin America and the Caribbean, which will be hosted by the Government of Argentina in Buenos Aires in June 2017.

B. Regional economic commissions

38. UN-Habitat worked closely with the regional economic commissions in the coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda and during the preparatory process for Habitat III.

Economic Commission for Africa

39. In partnership with the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and the Habitat III secretariat, UN-Habitat supported the participation of least developed countries in Africa in the preparatory process for Habitat III through the development of national reports and the Habitat III regional report for Africa. In addition, with the effort spearheaded by ECA, UN-Habitat contributed to the development of the United Nations-African Union partnership on Africa's integration and development agenda for 2017-2027 to support the aspirations and goals of the first 10-year implementation plan (2014-2023) of Agenda 2063.

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

40. UN-Habitat worked closely with the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and the Habitat III secretariat with regard to the preparation of the Habitat III regional report for Asia and the Pacific. The task team

on urbanization, led by UNEP and supported by ESCAP, aimed at coordinating the input of United Nations agencies for the Habitat III process at the regional level.

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

41. UN-Habitat maintained a strong relationship with the Economic and Social Commission for West Asia (ESCWA) with regard to the identification and development of strategic plans and regional programmes. It contributed a chapter on urban issues for the ESCWA-led Arab sustainable development report and led efforts for the technical drafting of the Habitat III Arab region report in collaboration with the Habitat III secretariat. In 2016, ESCWA became an implementing partner in the regional programme on sustainable, inclusive and evidence-based national urban policies in select Arab States.

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

42. UN-Habitat worked closely with the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and the Habitat III secretariat on the preparation of the Habitat III regional report for Latin America and the Caribbean. UN-Habitat also supported ECLAC in enhancing accountability capacities and implementing the Sustainable Development Goals at the local level in Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil and Peru.

Economic Commission for Europe

43. UN-Habitat worked closely with the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) and the Habitat III secretariat in the preparations of the Habitat III regional report. UN-Habitat has also continued its partnership with ECE and the World Bank to advance the issue of housing finance and housing affordability in both developed and developing countries in the region. UN-Habitat also partnered with ECE in the implementation of international guidelines on urban and territorial planning and in the review of planning systems in the Commonwealth of Independent States.

C. Cooperation with regional intergovernmental organizations and development institutions outside the United Nations system

44. Institutional cooperation in this area focused notably on activities with the African Union and the European Union in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda. Many regional intergovernmental organizations and development institutions also supported UN-Habitat projects at the local or country level and during the preparatory process for Habitat III.

African Union

45. In preparation for Habitat III, UN-Habitat and ECA provided technical support to the African Union for the development of the Africa Common Position on Habitat III, which was prepared in Abuja and adopted by at the twenty-seventh Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union in Kigali in July 2016. At their meeting in December 2016, the Ministers of Housing approved the development of an African regional framework for implementation of the Common Position and the New Urban Agenda, taking into account Sustainable Development Goal 11 and other urban-related targets.

European Union

46. In May 2016, the European Union adopted the Urban Agenda for the European Union, which had been developed by the European Union Urban Development Group with support from UN-Habitat. The European Union and UN-Habitat jointly prepared a report entitled *The State of European Cities 2016: Cities Leading the Way to a Better Future*, which was launched at Habitat III. At the Conference, the European Union and UN-Habitat also launched an initiative on voluntary commitments to implement the New Urban Agenda through the Urban Agenda for the European Union. Together with the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and the World Bank and with support from UN-Habitat, the European Union also launched an initiative to develop a new global people-based definition of cities.

Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development

47. UN-Habitat and OECD partnered on a number of substantive publications and events. Highlights include the *OECD Regional Outlook 2016: Productive Regions for Inclusive Societies*, to which UN-Habitat contributed a chapter on the role of urbanization in sustainable development. UN-Habitat collaborated with OECD and Cities Alliance to implement a global programme for national urban policies, which was launched at Habitat III. OECD and UN-Habitat jointly issued a report entitled "The state of national urban policy in OECD countries: a special report prepared for the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III)". UN-Habitat and OECD jointly hosted the Second International Conference on National Urban Policy, which was held from 15 to 18 May 2017 in Paris. The Conference is an initiative of UN-Habitat that has gathered support from OECD and Cities Alliance.

Land Policy Initiative

48. UN-Habitat continued to support the Land Policy Initiative, which is a joint programme of the African Union Commission, the African Development Bank (AfDB) and ECA, in the implementation of the Declaration on Land Issues and Challenges in Africa signed by Heads of State and Government of the African Union in 2009. UN-Habitat is a member of the Land Policy Initiative Steering Committee, and led the capacity development component of the initiative in support of African member States in the implementation of the Declaration.

Association of Southeast Asian Nations

49. UN-Habitat, within the framework of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)-United Nations Plan of Action 2016-2020, is working closely with ASEAN, in particular in the areas of environmentally sustainable cities, and climate change and cities. UN-Habitat also supports the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response.

D. Regional financial institutions

African Development Bank

50. Following the implementation of the first phase of the Lake Victoria Region Water and Sanitation Initiative, UN-Habitat entered into a partnership with AfDB and the East African Community (EAC) to extend the initiative to include 15 additional towns. UN-Habitat is responsible for the training and capacity-building

component of the initiative, while each of the five EAC partner member States is responsible for implementing the physical infrastructure component.

51. In addition, AfDB supported the strengthening of the public works sector in Somalia, through a programme that aims to increase the delivery of equitable, affordable and sustainable services that promote national peace and reconciliation. Together with AfDB, UN-Habitat issued a report on housing market dynamics in Africa, which contains recommendations for Governments, development finance institutions, the private sector and other stakeholders.

European Investment Bank

52. In partnership with the European Investment Bank (EIB), UN-Habitat delivered over 300 sanitation facilities to meet the sanitation needs of about 250,000 individuals, including for those attending 150 schools in the slums of Mwanza, United Republic of Tanzania.

Asian Development Bank

53. UN-Habitat and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) Institute jointly collaborated on housing finance activities, including the organization of an expert group meeting in Madrid on innovative housing finance solutions. The meeting was also supported by EIB. In addition, UN-Habitat and ADB jointly supported national Governments and city authorities in Cambodia, Mongolia and Myanmar in building capacity for sustainable urban development through technical assistance and project financing.

Inter-American Development Bank

54. During the reporting period, UN-Habitat signed and implemented agreements with the Inter-American Development Bank, the Charities Aid Foundation and the Central American Bank for Economic Integration.

IV. Thematic activities at the national and subnational levels

55. UN-Habitat enhanced its cooperation with United Nations system organizations and other partners in implementing activities, including operational projects, at the national, subnational and local levels in the thematic and cross-cutting areas of the organization.

A. Urban legislation, land and governance

56. UN-Habitat developed a number of tools and methodologies to systematically review and reform urban legal frameworks to improve their effectiveness and their enforcement potential. It applied a legal method primarily to planning and development control. Legal maps were developed for planning law in Ecuador, Egypt, Mozambique, the Philippines, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia and Zambia.

57. The issue of land and conflict is now recognized as a key element in the United Nations peacebuilding architecture. This is attributed partly to advocacy efforts linking work on the issue with the broader global processes associated with United Nations reforms, such as the high-level reviews on peace operations and related United Nations resolutions. The United Nations Working Group on Transitions included key elements of the land and conflict issue in the work plans of its Task Team on Conflict Prevention.

58. In partnership with UNEP, UN-Habitat launched an initiative to document the interaction between environmental and urban development decision-making and regulation. With an emphasis on working through the 74 partners of the Global Land Tool Network, UN-Habitat supported the piloting of a variety of tools to promote security of tenure in several countries, including Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kenya, Mauritius, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nepal, South Sudan, Uganda and Zambia.

59. The UN-Habitat database on urban law, UrbanLex, includes almost 600 laws from 68 countries, organized according to seven areas of urban law that are essential to the sustainability and development of urban areas. The database is being populated by eight core institutional partners covering all of the principal geographic regions of UN-Habitat and of FAO. The UrbanLex partnership also provides a foundation for awareness-raising, training and comparative analysis collaborations, which, in 2016, focused on the quality of law, the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, housing, public space and technology regulation.

60. UN-Habitat continued its partnership with local and regional governments and their associations with the aim of enhancing their capacities to offer technical support in the implementation of sustainable urban development. UN-Habitat and United Cities and Local Governments continued to serve as joint secretariats of the United Nations Advisory Committee on Local Authorities. UN-Habitat also supported the initial activities of the Global Task Force of Local and Regional Governments and contributed, mostly through the United Nations Advisory Committee on Local Authorities, to the second World Assembly of Local and Regional Governments, held during Habitat III.

61. All the technical projects in the area of urban governance were implemented in partnership with various institutions, given the limited resources of UN-Habitat, including: Uraia, which has a partnership of 100 members; LSE Cities, which led a project on urban governance; and United Cities and Local Governments, which, together with UN-Habitat, provided methodology elements. Efforts to implement the Sustainable Development Goals at the local level were led by United Cities and Local Governments, UN-Habitat and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

62. The UN-Habitat Safer Cities Programme continued to develop the Global Network on Safer Cities in order to strengthen the prevention of crime and violence and enhance urban safety. That aim was reflected in the activities of partner-led technical working groups on safer cities and the regional forums that supported the development of United Nations system-wide guidelines on safer cities.

B. Urban planning and design

63. UN-Habitat renewed its commitment to promote national urban policies. The national urban policy development process has begun in several countries in collaboration with national authorities (Argentina, Cuba, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jordan, Lebanon, Liberia, Morocco, Myanmar, Sudan and Tunisia) and is ongoing in Angola, Cameroon, Egypt, Solomon Islands and Zambia. National urban policies are being drafted in Liberia and the Philippines, while capacity is being developed in Chad, Ghana and Iraq. Colombia, Mozambique and South Africa have adopted spatial frameworks at the metropolitan level. Subnational urban policy initiatives are also being launched in Nigeria (Niger State) and Zanzibar. Regional programmes on national urban policy are ongoing, including a regional programme on national urban policies in the Arab States.

64. The International Guidelines on Urban and Territorial Planning, which were adopted in 2015, have since been endorsed by seven countries to improve their national, regional and city-level spatial plans and frameworks. The implementation of the Guidelines, as was the case for their formulation, is conducted in consultation with national Governments, United Nations system organizations, international associations of local authorities and urban planning professional associations, as well as members of the Habitat Professionals Forum. Throughout the worldwide process of implementation of the Guidelines, led by UN-Habitat, a total of 27 UN-Habitat partners have been engaged in activities for raising awareness, advocacy and building the capacities of planning constituencies to support the use of the Guidelines by member States of UN-Habitat.

65. UN-Habitat and the International Civil Aviation Organization engaged in joint pilot projects in Addis Ababa, Nairobi, and Ekurhuleni and Johannesburg, South Africa, fostering collaboration between the civil aviation, land-use, planning and urban development authorities with regard to sustainable development.

66. UN-Habitat is supporting 39 cities in sustainable urban planning. In total, 14 local urban planning and design labs have been set up worldwide. A global network of urban planning and design labs has been established, with more than 20 temporary and permanent labs in countries such as Afghanistan, Belarus, Brazil, China, Colombia, Cuba, Ecuador, Egypt, Ghana, Haiti, India, Kenya, Lebanon, Mexico, Mozambique, Myanmar, the Philippines, Rwanda, the Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Somalia and South Africa.

67. In collaboration with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), and under the overall umbrella of the humanitarian response in Kenya, UN-Habitat is implementing the spatial planning component of the new settlement in Kalobeyei (Turkana County, Kenya) that will function as an urban centre for integrating more than 60,000 refugees and for the host community. Through such work, as well as the active participation of UN-Habitat in conflict and post-disaster situations, for example, in Ecuador, Haiti and Somalia, the approach to urban crisis and to refugees is being discussed and developed.

68. During the reporting period, initiatives on public space were completed in the following nine cities, in conjunction with diverse partners: Buenos Aires; Medellin; Quito; Port-de-Paix, Haiti; Mumbai (Lotus Garden), India; Surabaya and Sidoarjo, Indonesia; Mexico City; Nairobi (Jeevanje Gardens); and Kirtipur (Dey Pukhu), Nepal.

C. Urban economy and municipal finance

69. UN-Habitat continued to contribute to the creation and dissemination of knowledge products on inclusive economic growth, with an emphasis on the promotion of local economic development strategies, the creation of jobs and livelihoods, in particular for youth and women, and the promotion of innovative municipal revenue-generating mechanisms.

70. In 2016, the capacity of a growing number of partner cities to adopt strategies that support inclusive economic growth was enhanced. Six partner cities (Kalobeyei, Homa Bay and Kiambu in Kenya; and Croix-des-Bouquets, Cabaret and Thomazeau municipalities in Haiti) prepared local economic development plans and set priorities on the basis of local economic assessments. In the Philippines, the planned city extensions and the local economic development strategies for four cities were formulated, namely, Iloilo, Silay, Zamboanga City and Cagayan de Oro.

71. Six new partner cities have adopted programmes and strategies for improved urban and municipal finance using new finance management and billing systems. Kiambu County government in Kenya increased its revenue generation from 2.1 billion Kenya shillings in the period 2014-2015 to 2.4 billion Kenya shillings by the second quarter of 2016. In Haiti, the capacity of local authorities to appropriately budget for and coordinate investments towards well-planned and economically beneficial outcomes has improved.

72. UN-Habitat continued to encourage local authorities to use innovative land-based municipal revenue generating tools, such as land value capture. The implementation of these tools, however, requires the introduction of appropriate legal and institutional frameworks at the national level. This is a serious challenge facing local governments.

73. UN-Habitat also conducted a group training on local economic assessments for city extension in Ethiopia and Mozambique and on local economic development and livelihood strategies for youth in Kenya.

74. UN-Habitat took the lead in all the above-mentioned projects, except for the project in Kalobeyei, which was led by UNHCR.

D. Housing and slum upgrading

75. UN-Habitat strengthened its collaboration with ECE on housing strategies in Albania, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan and Ukraine. With direct guidance and technical expertise from UN-Habitat and support from UNDP and OHCHR, Guyana carried out a housing assessment and Lesotho carried out a housing policy framework and implementation strategy. With direct guidance and technical expertise from UN-Habitat and support from OHCHR, the Governments of Afghanistan, Angola and Sri Lanka carried out a housing assessment. UN-Habitat also provided direct support to the Government of Afghanistan to produce a housing policy framework as well as to Zambia (with support from the International Labour Organization (ILO)) and Sri Lanka to update their existing housing policies.

76. UN-Habitat reconfirmed its commitment to the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns by continuing to be a member of the Multi-Stakeholder Advisory Committee of the 10-Year Framework Programme on Sustainable Buildings and Construction, led by the Government of Finland, along with UNEP, the World Green Building Council and the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology. In addition, UN-Habitat agreed to be, together with UNEP, a co-Chair of the 10-Year Framework Programme Inter-Agency Consultative Group for Space Science for the 2016-2017 cycle.

77. Under the framework of the 10-Year Framework Programme, UN-Habitat created a sustainable housing design tool, SHERPA, which reflects the effective collaboration achieved within the Global Network for Sustainable Housing, in particular between UN-Habitat, the International Centre for Earth Construction, the VTT Technical Research Centre of Finland and the University of Cambridge. The aim of the tool is to provide a pre-implementation evaluation of housing projects in developing countries.

78. Also under the framework, UN-Habitat partnered with Oxford Brookes University, Development Alternatives, and the Energy and Resources Institute to develop ways in which India's planned and currently implemented mass social housing schemes could be used to pioneer approaches that were more sustainable. The Mainstreaming Sustainable Social Housing in India Project serves to promote

sustainability in terms of environmental performance, affordability and social inclusion as an integrated part of social development.

E. Urban basic services

79. As a member of the technical working group supporting the High-level Advisory Group of the Secretary-General on Transport, UN-Habitat collaborated with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat with regard to preparations for the Global Conference on Sustainable Transport held in Turkmenistan in November 2016.

80. The Global Water Operators' Partnerships Alliance, hosted by UN-Habitat, was identified by the Advisory Board on Water and Sanitation as a critical step in the process of improving access to water for the world's poorest. The Alliance has supported over 200 water utilities serving over 1.5 million customers. This has allowed the recipient utilities to work with their mentor partners to identify long-term priorities for the improvement of the overall performance of the utility and to develop performance improvement plans that reflect these priorities.

81. UN-Habitat continued to implement the project supported by the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) on sustainable transport for East African cities. In Nairobi, operational plans for the first demonstration of a bus rapid transit corridor have provided the basis for detailed designs and construction.

82. UN-Habitat also continued its partnership with UNEP and GEF on a project to promote energy efficiency in buildings in East Africa. To date, the project has trained over 500 architects, engineers and quantity surveyors in the region on sustainability in the construction environment. The project was instrumental in the development and adoption of the Rwanda building code, which also focuses on energy.

83. A joint initiative with UNEP during the reporting period resulted in the establishment of a network on district energy and the issuance of a report on district energy in cities. UN-Habitat also collaborated with ILO on a project in Kenya for affordable housing, known as "ECO-Manyatta", in which UN-Habitat provided substantive inputs, such as passive building principles to promote environmentally friendly building policies.

84. Together with the Global Water Partnership, the International Water Management Institute, the World Water Council, the International Water Association, the Stockholm International Water Institute, Akvo and the University of South Florida, UN-Habitat established the Urban Waters Hub, which is aimed at improving urban water management.

85. The African Clean Cities Platform is a platform dedicated to promoting knowledge-sharing and project identification. It was established by the Ministry of Environment of Japan, the Japan International Cooperation Agency, UNEP and UN-Habitat as follow-up to the side event on waste management held at the August 2016 Tokyo International Conference on African Development. It resulted from an effective appeal by African delegates who emphasized the importance of continuity in the knowledge-sharing and promotion of investment in solid waste management in Africa.

86. In Kampala, UN-Habitat and the Institute for Transportation and Development Policy launched a "peoples' mobility map", which is an open-sourced map of public transport routes in the city.

F. Risk reduction and rehabilitation

87. Building on the City Resilience Profiling Programme history, collaboration continued between the UN-Habitat global urban resilience programme and a wide range of partners, including the Inter-Agency Secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction. In that context, UN-Habitat contributed to the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 through its representation on the Senior Management Group on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience, which supports the High-level Committee on Programmes.

88. UN-Habitat contributed to the ongoing development of indicators for the monitoring and implementation of the Sendai Framework.

89. UN-Habitat continued its engagement with the Inter-Agency Standing Committee, by participating in and providing support to the Committee's Principals Group, Emergency Directors Group, Global Shelter Cluster and reference group for implementing the strategy on meeting humanitarian challenges in urban areas. UN-Habitat also forged broad-based partnerships with United Nations entities and civil society through the Global Alliance for Urban Crises, an initiative established in close collaboration with the secretariat of the World Humanitarian Summit, United Cities and Local Governments, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the International Rescue Committee and the Department for International Development (United Kingdom). The Alliance was launched during the World Humanitarian Summit, and UN-Habitat is a co-host of the secretariat of the Alliance.

90. The challenge of bridging the gap between humanitarian emergency approaches, while supporting reintegration through the provision of durable solutions that are more sustainable, was addressed in a broad range of humanitarian contexts, including with regard to Afghanistan, Iraq, Kenya, Somalia and the Syrian Arab Republic.

91. In Iraq, UN-Habitat launched its urban recovery programme to support the efforts of the Government to facilitate the return of displaced people to the liberated and highly damaged areas of the country. In Iraq and the Syrian Arab Republic, UN-Habitat launched multisectoral urban city profiles, which provide detailed analyses of the damage, destruction and levels of functionality of the major components of the urban environment, infrastructure and urban systems that allow a city to function. The UN-Habitat 2016 city profile on Mosul, Iraq, was considered by United Nations system organizations and the donor community as a significant contribution to spatial analysis, in a complex emergency situation, that would strategically guide upcoming stabilization and recovery initiatives.

92. In June 2016, UN-Habitat took on the role of Chair of the steering committee for the "Making cities resilient" campaign, leading the implementation, and second phase, of the campaign, which is aimed at reaching 5,000 city-local government partners by 2020. It will also lead efforts to expand the available options for cities in creating their local resilience strategies.

G. Research and capacity development

93. In addition to the *World Cities Report*, UN-Habitat, jointly with the European Commission, published the *State of European Cities 2016: Cities Leading the Way to a Better Future*, which was launched in October 2016. UN-Habitat completed the

preparation of first phase of the research for a 2017 study on the state of African cities, analysing financial flows for urban development.

94. UN-Habitat proposed the adaptation of a city prosperity initiative to enable Governments to have a more systemic approach to the city. The Initiative is currently being implemented in more than 400 cities across the world. UN-Habitat is currently providing technical advisory services in Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay and Peru.

95. The UN-Habitat Global Urban Observatory has created a global sample of cities, which is a tool to report on world urbanization trends, conditions and developments. The sample is currently using data on the expansion of urban areas between 1990 and 2015 with regard to 200 cities and it will be used to assist countries in preparing similar samples of urban centres at the national level.

V. Cross-cutting coordination and mainstreaming

96. UN-Habitat designated four cross-cutting issues to be mainstreamed throughout its operational and normative work: climate change, gender equality, human rights and youth. Each issue has developed a unique project formulation marker to help to assess mainstreaming at the inception stage and ensure that the issues are mainstreamed throughout the programmes and projects of UN-Habitat.

A. Gender mainstreaming and the empowerment of women

97. UN-Habitat continued to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women as essential components of sustainable urban development. UN-Habitat, together with relevant United Nations system organizations and other partners, worked towards promoting women's rights, access to services, and women's and men's equal participation in decision-making. One of the challenges facing UN-Habitat in this regard was the lack of funding to support partner participation in its initiatives.

98. The gender equality marker is systematically and comprehensively applied to all UN-Habitat projects. It was also applied to all 140 projects reviewed by a project appraisal group; 75 per cent of all projects obtained a marker of "gender sensitive" or higher.

99. In December 2016, UN-Habitat began the process of tracking resources dedicated to gender equality and the empowerment of women, as part of its efforts to meet the requirements of the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women.

100. Together with the municipality of Barcelona, UN-Habitat organized an expert group meeting on the theme "Linking relief, rehabilitation and development: gender-responsive engagement in post-conflict contexts". The communiqué produced at the meeting was aimed at illustrating the specific gender-related dimensions of urban post-conflict contexts and was used by participants/experts at international conferences in the lead-up to Habitat III.

B. Human rights

101. UN-Habitat contributed towards promoting a human rights-based approach in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda. Efforts included strengthening and

systematizing its engagement vis-à-vis global policy developments, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Rights Up Front Initiative of the Secretary-General.

102. Following the development of a human rights marker in 2015, the percentage of project documents that reflected human rights awareness and a human rights-based approach increased from 50 to 73 per cent, as a result of concerted efforts in that regard. Most of the projects were designed and implemented by UN-Habitat and partner organizations.

103. UN-Habitat strengthened its partnership with OHCHR through collaboration on two reports: on alternatives to forced evictions in informal settlements, and on homelessness. Both are scheduled to be released in 2017.

104. UN-Habitat continued to assist Member States and other stakeholders in efforts to meet their international commitments, in particular to ensure the full and progressive realization of the right to adequate housing, as provided for in international instruments. The main challenge facing UN-Habitat in that regard is that, whereas international policies have excelled, practices and policies at the national level are lagging behind. For example, forced evictions continue to be carried out, in some cases even in compliance with judicial decisions that are affirmed by national policies not in line with international standards. As such, the normative work of UN-Habitat in 2016 was focused on alternatives to forced evictions at the local and national levels and on the need for eviction impact assessments before, during and after evictions.

105. UN-Habitat strengthened its partnership with UNHCR under the framework of the Mediterranean city-to-City migration project, co-led by the International Centre for Migration Policy Development and United Cities and Local Governments, with UNHCR as an associate partner, in efforts to focus on strengthening migration governance in the Mediterranean region.

106. UN-Habitat continued its collaboration with other United Nations system organizations on indigenous peoples issues in urban areas through the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Issues by providing input to relevant initiatives. In addition, UN-Habitat continued to promote the right to adequate housing for persons with disabilities through the Inter-Agency Support Group on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

C. Climate change

107. The Compact of Mayors,[1] on whose management committee UN-Habitat sits, achieved significant progress towards climate mitigation and adaptation. The number of mayors committed to the Compact increased from 320 in 2015 to 605 by the end of 2016. The 605 cities have a combined population of approximately 446 million inhabitants.

108. The proposal to merge the Compact of Mayors with the Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy was approved. Improvement was also achieved in policies, plans and strategies, which contributed to the mitigation of climate change in six of the cities participating in promoting low emission urban development strategies, funded by ECE and implemented by Local Governments for Sustainability and UN-Habitat. The councils of the six cities — Recife (Brazil), Rajkot and Panaji (India), Balikpapan and Bogor (Indonesia), and KwaDukuza (South Africa) —

[1] The Compact of Mayors is an initiative that encourages cities to publicly commit to reducing their greenhouse gas emissions and to adapt to climate change.

adopted strategies to reduce emissions. By the end of 2016, the International Society of City and Regional Planners had endorsed the Guiding Principles for City Climate Action Planning, becoming the latest of 46 partners.

109. At the twenty-second session of the Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, together with such partners as the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (as co-sponsor), UN-Habitat launched an open call for a city to host a scientific conference on cities and climate change. Other organizing partners included UNEP, Local Governments for Sustainability, C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group, the Sustainable Development Solutions Network and Future Earth. The scientific conference is scheduled to be held in March 2018.

110. At the twenty-second session of the Conference of the Parties, UN-Habitat released the findings of a review (from an urban perspective) of the intended nationally determined contributions that form the heart of the Paris Agreement on climate change. The review found that in 26 of the contributions substantial attention was given to urban issues, while in another 84 moderate attention was given.

111. Together with endorsing partners, including the World Bank, GEF, UNEP and Inter-Agency Secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, UN-Habitat began to apply its Guiding Principles for City Climate Action Planning to a number of cities engaged in climate action planning or related processes, including Tacloban, Philippines; Honiara; and Port Vila. Implementers released reviews of those ongoing processes for two cities: Vilankulo, Mozambique; and Glasgow, Scotland. Other city-level reviews are ongoing.

112. During the reporting period, UN-Habitat strengthened its engagement with other members of the Climate and Clean Air Coalition, including UNEP and WHO. It also participated in the launch of a project in Accra on urban health and short-lived climate pollutants. UN-Habitat is supporting the linkage of this activity (launched under the urban health initiative) into broader urban planning processes in the city. Proposals for other possible collaborations with Coalition partners are under development.

113. Through the Myanmar Climate Change Alliance, spearheaded by UN-Habitat in partnership with UNEP, the Government of Myanmar finalized the Myanmar climate change strategy and action plan; adopted and submitted its intended nationally determined contribution; and is delivering its national climate change policy in order to further reinforce the climate change policy environment. Six partner cities are implementing strategies to reduce emissions. In Bogor, Indonesia, approximately $12 million has been allocated to revitalize the city's bus rapid transit system and convert a portion of the city's microbuses to two types of cleaner fuels. In KwaDukuza, South Africa, guidelines for the construction of green builds have been approved.

114. The development of an assessment framework for the implementation of nationally determined contributions under the Paris Agreement on climate change has been discussed by a coalition of partners, including the Commonwealth and UNEP. In order to raise awareness about the need for cities to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to climate-related impacts, UN-Habitat launched two reports: "Addressing climate change in national urban policy: a policy guide for low-carbon and climate resilient urban development", which is intended to assist decision makers in ensuring that urban policies empower local authorities to take climate action; and "Sustainable urbanization in the Paris Agreement: comparative review of nationally determined contributions for urban content".

D. Youth

115. UN-Habitat worked with Sadguru Sadafaldeo Vihangam Yoga Sansthan, based in Chhattisgarh State, India, where three One Stop Youth Centres have been established to train young men and women in vocational skills training.

116. A new life skills and livelihood programme, "Get to Work!" (*Shaqeso*), is currently being piloted in Mogadishu, with the aim of training thousands of young men and women in entrepreneurship and other applicable skills relevant to the local job market.

117. The Youth and Governance programme of UN-Habitat focuses on developing models of engagement for youth in local governance. In the second phase of a county innovation challenge project based in Kenya, efforts are being made to harness the problem-solving potential of young men and women through a hackathon, in order to come up with information and communications technology solutions to local governance challenges.

118. In 2016, the India Youth Fund granted funding to five youth-led groups in the areas of environment, women's rights and entrepreneurship development; the Colombia Youth Fund will support 10 youth-led groups working on peace and entrepreneurship.

119. UN-Habitat also worked with indigenous and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex communities to map cultural heritage sites in Otavalo, Ecuador, in order to develop an indigenous cities declaration and a lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex community declaration on urban sustainability.

VI. Recommendations

120. In the light of the issues discussed in the present report, Member States are called upon to:

(a) Work towards the implementation of the New Urban Agenda adopted at the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), held in Quito in 2016, building on the Habitat Agenda adopted at the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), held in Istanbul, Turkey, in 1996;

(b) Support, including financially, the work of UN-Habitat as a focal point for sustainable urbanization and human settlements development, including in the implementation, follow-up and review of the New Urban Agenda, in collaboration with other United Nations entities;

(c) Promote the leading role of national Governments in the definition and elaboration of national urban policies;

(d) Strengthen subnational and local governments in the local implementation of the New Urban Agenda.

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Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS

Note by the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General has the honour to transmit to the Economic and Social Council the report of the Executive Director of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), prepared pursuant to Council resolution 2015/2.

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Report of the Executive Director of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS

Summary

The present report has been prepared pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 2015/2, in which the Council requested the Secretary-General to transmit, at the substantive session of 2017, a report prepared by the Executive Director of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) on progress made in implementing a coordinated response by the United Nations system to AIDS.

The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS — an early example of United Nations reform that unites, coordinates and synergizes the efforts of 11 United Nations co-sponsors and the secretariat — has led the global AIDS response and supported countries as they pursued the AIDS targets outlined in the Millennium Development Goals. The Joint Programme's advocacy has kept AIDS high on the global political agenda and contributed to the inclusion of the ambitious target of ending the AIDS epidemic as an integral part of the Sustainable Development Goals. It also led to the setting of bold fast-track targets and milestones in the outcome document entitled "Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS: On the Fast Track to Accelerating the Fight against HIV and to Ending the AIDS Epidemic by 2030", adopted at the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on HIV and AIDS in June 2016 (see resolution 70/266).

Bringing together the sectoral- and population-specific capacities and expertise of each co-sponsor and the Secretariat, the Joint Programme has played a unique role in strengthening multisectoral HIV responses, ensuring linkages with the broader 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Normative guidance by the Joint Programme has assisted countries in implementing rights-based and evidence-informed programmes and in leveraging rapidly evolving scientific knowledge. The Joint Programme has remained the central provider of authoritative strategic information on the epidemic and the response at the global, regional and country levels. This information forms the basis for programmes resourced by national Governments and development partners.

The Joint Programme has also served as a consistent and vocal advocate for an inclusive AIDS response, grounded in human rights and gender equality. The Joint Programme has pioneered the principle of leaving no one behind. It is the global leader in galvanizing and supporting the mobilization of communities affected by the epidemic and it supports countries in designing programmes to ensure equitable access to services for key populations and vulnerable groups.

As set out in the UNAIDS 2016-2021 Strategy, entitled "On the Fast-Track to end AIDS" the world faces a historic opportunity. Extraordinary scientific advances, combined with more than three decades of experience in scaling up HIV programmes, have led to remarkable progress against AIDS in many countries and underpinned the global commitment to end the AIDS epidemic by 2030.

Notwithstanding the remarkable progress, the AIDS epidemic is far from over. Prevention remains key to achieving the ambitious 2020 and 2030 targets. However, progress in reducing new HIV infections has stalled since 2010. Continuing high rates of new HIV infections translate into higher future treatment needs. More than 10 million additional people living with HIV will need to access treatment by 2020 in order to reach the agreed treatment targets and to avoid AIDS-related deaths. Yet, access to HIV prevention, testing and treatment services is hindered by the stigma

and discrimination towards people living with HIV, the criminalization of people at higher risk of HIV infection, socioeconomic inequalities and unequal gender relations that especially affect young women.

UNAIDS projections show that such challenges can be overcome by accelerating the AIDS response and focusing interventions on the locations and populations most in need. However, shifting global priorities may undermine progress and hinder the ability of countries to reach the AIDS targets and fulfil their commitments. Although advocacy and technical assistance by the Joint Programme have contributed to an increase in domestic financing for the response in low- and middle-income countries, international donor support to those countries is decreasing faster than the rise in domestic investments.

Additional investment by all countries across the AIDS ecosystem is critical to fulfilling the commitment, reaffirmed in the 2016 Political Declaration, to close the $7 billion investment gap.

In line with the multidimensional nature of the AIDS epidemic, actions to end the epidemic need to be mainstreamed across the relevant Sustainable Development Goals. As recognized by the Economic and Social Council and, more recently, by the General Assembly in 2016, UNAIDS and the broader AIDS response also offer important lessons that can strengthen and help sustain global health and development efforts more broadly.

The Joint Programme's core budget had been fully resourced each year since its inception, but a funding gap left 28 per cent of the 2016 core budget unfunded. This situation has prompted discussions in the UNAIDS governing body, the Programme Coordinating Board, on the Joint Programme's activities in the light of the funding available. Member States are supporting the efforts of UNAIDS to reposition and reinforce its Joint Programme model, in part through a multi-stakeholder global review panel. This exercise will see UNAIDS remain a pathfinder for United Nations reform and enable the AIDS response to contribute even more substantively to the broader 2030 Agenda.

I. Sustainable Development Goals and the evolving political context of the AIDS response

1. The Millennium Development Goal target of halting and reversing the spread of HIV/AIDS by 2015 was ultimately achieved. Dramatic expansion of antiretroviral therapy has continued to reduce the annual number of AIDS-related deaths, and the scaling up of services to prevent mother-to-child transmission of HIV has halved new HIV infections in children in just five years, between 2010 and 2015. While recognizing that the Millennium Development Goals remain unfinished business, that progress emboldened optimism with regard to setting the ambitious Sustainable Development Goal target of ending the AIDS epidemic by 2030. As recommended by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 2015/2, this target fits squarely within the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the global commitment to leave no one behind.

2. The adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals in September 2015 provided an opportunity to revisit many of our approaches to development. The universal and indivisible nature of the Goals calls for all stakeholders to collaborate, and the AIDS response in many ways serves as a pathfinder for the multisectoral, people-centred actions envisaged in the Goals.

3. The UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board, in October 2015, adopted the UNAIDS 2016-2021 Strategy to guide the global AIDS response. The Strategy, the first in the United Nations system to be aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals, is organized around the five Goals (Goals 3, 5, 10, 16 and 17) that represent the most strategic areas for enhanced collaboration to maximize impact. The targets and principles of the Strategy formed the foundation for the recommendations in the 2016 report of the Secretary General to the General Assembly entitled "On the fast track to ending the AIDS epidemic" (A/70/811 and Corr.1). They were subsequently used as the basis for the commitments agreed by Member States and were articulated in the outcome document entitled "Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS: On the Fast Track to Accelerating the Fight against HIV and to Ending the AIDS Epidemic by 2030", adopted at the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on HIV and AIDS in June 2016 (see resolution 70/266). The 2016 Declaration rests on the foundation of the 2030 Agenda and contains a comprehensive set of commitments and measurable targets to fast track the AIDS response and achieve three strategic milestones by 2020: (a) to reduce new HIV infections to fewer than 500,000 per year; (b) to reduce the number of people dying from AIDS-related causes to fewer than 500,000 per year; and (c) to eliminate HIV-related stigma and discrimination.

4. In its resolution 71/243 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system, adopted by the General Assembly in December 2016, Member States called for a United Nations development system that was more strategic, integrated, coherent, nimble, accountable and results-oriented. The resolution stressed the need for greater coordination among United Nations system agencies, more joint programming and more integrated action at the country level. It also emphasized the value of more transparent governance that engaged civil society more fully, further harmonization of United Nations systems and processes, the more effective use of resources, strengthened results-based management and greater accountability. Many of the

attributes called for by Member States in the resolution are traditional strengths of the Joint Programme[1] (see table below).

Quadrennial comprehensive policy review resolution (resolution 71/243) and the Joint Programme

General Assembly resolution 71/243	*UNAIDS*
The Assembly underscored that there was no "one-size-fits-all" approach to development, and called upon the United Nations development system to enhance its efforts in a flexible, timely, coherent, coordinated and integrated manner.	UNAIDS is a joint programme of 11 United Nations agencies and the secretariat that the Economic and Social Council, in its resolutions 2013/11 and 2015/2, described as an example "of enhanced strategic coherence, coordination, results-based focus, inclusive governance and country-level impact, based on national contexts and priorities".
The Assembly stressed that the governance architecture of the United Nations development system must be more efficient, transparent, accountable and responsive to Member States and able to enhance coordination, coherence, effectiveness and efficiency of the operational activities for development.	UNAIDS has a unique and inclusive governance model that includes Member States, United Nations co-sponsoring agencies and civil society, which has been described by the Council as a lesson-learned for the United Nations system in the post-2015 era.
The Assembly further stressed the need to enhance system-wide coherence and efficiency, reduce duplication and build synergy across governing bodies of the entities of the United Nations development system.	The Committee of Cosponsoring Organizations facilitates the input of co-sponsors into the strategy, policies and operations of the Joint Programme. There is potential to further reinvigorate the strategic policy focus of the Committee and to pursue greater coherence across the boards of UNAIDS and its co-sponsors, as recommended by a global review panel.
The Assembly called upon the entities of the United Nations development system to mainstream the Sustainable Development Goals in their strategic planning documents and in their work at all levels.	The UNAIDS 2016-2021 Strategy is aligned with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and is organized in relation to the Sustainable Development Goals, focusing in particular on achieving target 3.3 on ending the AIDS epidemic by 2030 and contributing to the achievement of the broader health, development, human rights and gender outcomes of the Goals.
The Assembly stressed that improvement of coordination and coherence at all levels of the United Nations development system should be undertaken in a manner that recognizes the respective mandates and roles, and enhances the effective utilization of resources and expertise.	UNAIDS has a formal division of labour that recognizes the mandates, roles and comparative advantages of the co-sponsors and the secretariat and that strives to enhance the effective utilization of resources.

[1] The Joint Programme draws on the experience and expertise of its 11 co-sponsors namely, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the World Food Programme (WFP), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), the International Labour Organization (ILO), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Bank, and the secretariat.

General Assembly resolution 71/243	*UNAIDS*
The Assembly underscored the importance of results-based management, within and across entities and at all levels of the United Nations development system, as an essential element of accountability. It requested that the United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies, as appropriate, that had not already done so should implement integrated results and resource frameworks that were aligned to their strategic plans in order to strengthen results-based budgeting.	UNAIDS has a unique unified budget, workplan and results framework that includes the core and non-core resources of all 11 co-sponsors and the secretariat. Challenged by its Board to ensure a clear link between resources and results at the country level, UNAIDS developed a more detailed and prioritized results framework for the period 2016-2021 that provides a complete results chain, from inputs to impact.
The Assembly noted the importance of the United Nations development system's contribution in supporting government efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, based on full respect for human rights, and stressed in this regard that all human rights were universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated.	UNAIDS consistently amplifies the voice of vulnerable and marginalized communities and works to advance broader health, development and human rights agendas in order to ensure that no one is left behind.
The Assembly calls upon all entities of the United Nations development system to continue to promote women's empowerment and gender equality.	UNAIDS has made significant contributions to addressing the gender dimensions of the AIDS epidemic and the wider gender equality issues by improving the integration of gender into national AIDS strategies and plans and by strengthening policy frameworks in support of women's rights. The secretariat and the co-sponsors also promote women's empowerment by supporting greater leadership by women, especially women living with HIV and women among key populations.
The Assembly encouraged the United Nations development system to intensify its collaboration with relevant stakeholders in results-oriented and innovative national, regional and global partnerships.	UNAIDS convenes transformative and inclusive partnerships to unite the United Nations system, Governments, people living with HIV, civil society, the private sector, major financing institutions, the academic and scientific communities, the media and influential public figures. These partnerships aim to change the critical drivers of the epidemic in systemic and positive ways.
The Assembly urged the United Nations development system to mobilize multiple funding sources and deepen partnerships with other relevant stakeholders, with a view to diversifying potential sources of funding. It also urged the entities of the United Nations development system to further explore innovative funding approaches to catalyse additional resources.	UNAIDS is receiving core contributions from a number of non-traditional donors, including African Member States, as well as funding from the private sector and foundations.

5. The Secretary-General of the United Nations, António Guterres, upon taking the oath of office, told the General Assembly the following: "We will reposition development at the centre of our work, and engage in a comprehensive reform of the United Nations development system, at Headquarters and country levels. This must involve leadership, coordination, delivery and accountability [...] The United Nations needs to be nimble, efficient and effective. It must focus more on delivery and less on process; more on people and less on bureaucracy."

6. The progress documented in the present report should be viewed in the context of the rapidly evolving environment, to which the Joint Programme is adapting while maintaining its place at the vanguard of United Nations reform.

II. Update on the global AIDS epidemic

7. Substantial advances continue to be made in the global AIDS response. The most remarkable successes are in areas where broad consensus has been forged, for example, between the South and North and among communities and national Governments. The history of antiretroviral therapy is emblematic of the power of a unified international agenda. In the late 1990s and early 2000s, opinion was divided over whether the health systems of low-income countries could deliver antiretroviral therapy to large numbers of patients. There was also great concern about the unaffordability of antiretroviral drugs. By the end of 2002, only about 50,000 people were receiving antiretroviral therapy in sub-Saharan Africa.

8. However, a massive paradigm shift was achieved. Driving the changes were civil society activism led by people living with HIV, ambitious target-setting by the international community (inspired by the Joint Programme), a global effort to greatly reduce the costs and increase the availability of antiretroviral drugs and the mobilization of unprecedented amounts of financial resources. Widening access to HIV treatment became one of the great public health successes of the past century.

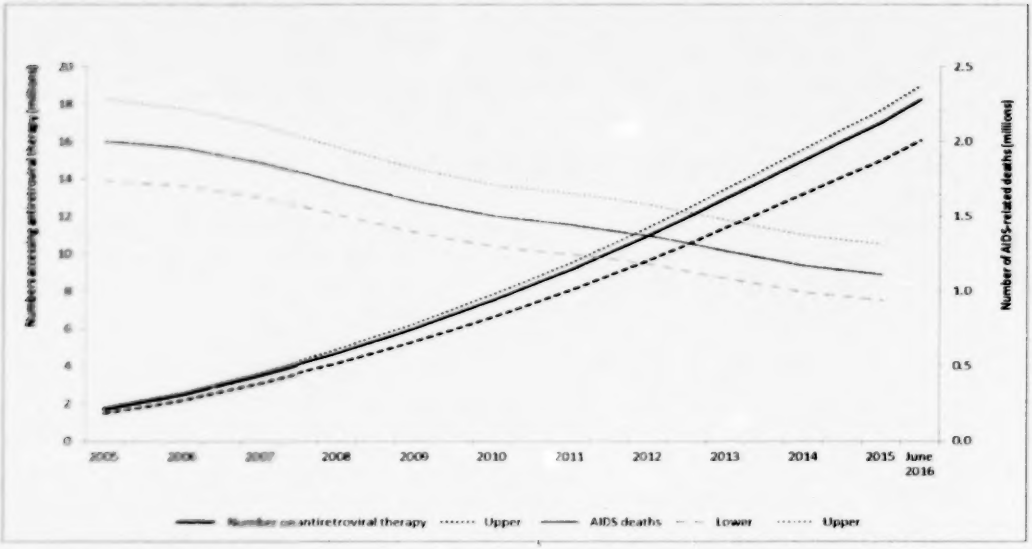
9. The number of people of all ages living with HIV who accessed antiretroviral therapy increased sharply after 2005 and reached 18.2 million by mid-2016. This surpassed the 15 million target set in the outcome document entitled the "Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS: Intensifying our Efforts to Eliminate HIV and AIDS", adopted in 2011 and which, at the time, had been criticized for being "overambitious". The number of AIDS-related deaths fell by 45 per cent, from a peak of 2 million in 2005 to 1.1 million in 2015 (see figure 1).[2]

10. There has also been steady progress in the reduction of HIV infections among children, a feat inspired by the Global Plan Towards the Elimination of New HIV Infections among Children by 2015 and Keeping Their Mothers Alive: 2011-2015, launched in June 2011 by UNAIDS and the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief. The Global Plan focused on the 22 priority countries that accounted for 90 per cent of the global number of pregnant women living with HIV in 2010. The Global Plan has galvanized global and national political will and action. Global coverage of services to prevent mother-to-child transmission of HIV has increased dramatically, from 50 per cent in 2010 to 77 per cent in 2015. As a result, the number of new HIV infections among children aged 0-14 years has declined by 51 per cent, from 290,000 in 2010 to 150,000 in 2015. In addition, the number of children aged 0-14 years on antiretroviral therapy globally has doubled over the past five years, from nearly 452,000 children in 2010 to 910,000 children by mid-2016, nearly cutting in half the number of AIDS-related deaths among children. There was also a 45 per cent decline in the number of AIDS-related deaths among women of

[2] UNAIDS 2016 estimates.

reproductive age in the Global Plan priority countries between 2009 and 2014, and the proportion of pregnant women living with HIV who were already on treatment before pregnancy to protect their own health increased from 11 per cent in 2009 to 66 per cent in 2014.

Number of people accessing antiretroviral therapy and number of AIDS-related deaths worldwide, 2005-2016



11. Nevertheless, AIDS is the thirteenth leading cause of death globally, the second top cause of death in Africa and the leading cause of death worldwide among women of reproductive age.

12. As of 2015, an estimated 36.7 million people were living with HIV, and 2.1 million people were newly infected that year. Sub-Saharan Africa remains the most heavily affected region, accounting for 69 per cent of people living with HIV and 66 per cent of new HIV infections. According to estimates, by the end of 2015, just 60 per cent of people living with HIV worldwide knew their HIV status.

13. Women represent 51 per cent of all people worldwide living with HIV and 59 per cent of those living in sub-Saharan Africa. In some countries, young women aged 15-19 years are up to five times more likely to be living with HIV than their male counterparts. The 2016 Political Declaration includes a commitment to reduce the number of new HIV infections among adolescent girls and young women to fewer than 100,000 per year by 2020. Between 2010 and 2015, new infections among females aged 15-24 years declined by only 6 per cent, from 420,000 to 390,000. Reducing new HIV infections in young women to the target of 100,000 per year will require a 74 per cent decrease between 2015 and 2020. Gender equality and empowerment of all women is a critical enabling factor for achieving that target.

14. Several populations are disproportionately affected by the epidemic and continue to be left behind. Studies have found that men who have sex with men to be 24 times more likely to acquire HIV than the general population; sex workers are 10 times more likely to acquire HIV than the population as a whole; transgender people are 49 times more likely to be living with HIV; and people who inject drugs are 24 times more likely to acquire HIV than adults in the general population. The

available data are sparse and difficult to aggregate, but they indicate that new HIV infections worldwide among people who inject drugs rose from an estimated 114,000 in 2011 to 152,000 in 2015. Over the same period, the number of new HIV infections among sex workers remained steady at about 125,000 a year, while among men who have sex with men, new HIV infections increased by about 12 per cent, from an estimated 210,000 in 2011 to 235,000 in 2015. The rate of new HIV infections among transgender people is believed to have remained stable during that period.

15. Gender inequality, stigma and discrimination, other human rights violations, criminalization, poverty, food insecurity and humanitarian emergencies remain profound barriers to progress in reducing new infections and ensuring equitable access to HIV services. One in eight people living with HIV report having been denied health care. Stigmatizing attitudes and outright discrimination on the part of health workers have been widely documented and found to constitute an important barrier to seeking, using and adhering to HIV prevention services and treatment and to the disclosure of HIV status.

16. Punitive laws, policies and practices continue to discriminate against people living with HIV and key populations and hinder their access to services. As of September 2015, 35 countries, territories and areas had imposed some form of restriction on the entry, stay and residence of people living with HIV based on their HIV status. At least four countries required refugees and asylum seekers to undergo mandatory HIV testing as a condition of stay. According to data from 2015, 72 countries had laws that specifically allowed for the criminalization of HIV transmission, while prosecutions for HIV non-disclosure, potential or perceived exposure and/or unintentional transmission had been reported in 61 countries, an increase from at least 49 countries in 2014. Such overly broad criminalization of HIV non-disclosure, exposure or transmission deters people from accessing HIV prevention and testing services.

III. The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS

17. As the only co-sponsored Joint Programme in the United Nations system, UNAIDS is a tangible example of a collaborative, multisectoral response to a complex and multifaceted issue. In its resolution 2015/2, the Economic and Social Council specifically recognized the value of the lessons learned from the global AIDS response for the post-2015 development agenda, including those lessons learned from the unique approach of the Joint Programme, and reaffirmed that "the Joint Programme offers the United Nations a useful example, to be considered, as appropriate, of enhanced strategic coherence, coordination, results-based focus, inclusive governance and country-level impact, based on national contexts and priorities".

18. UNAIDS has been instrumental in galvanizing political commitment, mobilizing resources and supporting countries in using investments more effectively in their responses to HIV. As the HIV response transitions from a crisis response to one that is more sustainable and integrated, it requires a carefully calibrated approach: one that is both embedded in health, development, humanitarian and human rights programming, while also maintaining visibility through a dedicated and forceful voice. To ensure that the epidemic does not rebound, strong leadership and coordination from the United Nations system is required to address the social, economic and political structural drivers of the epidemic — in particular human rights violations and gender inequality — to leverage the AIDS response to deal with broader global health challenges and to ensure that no one is left behind. It is

therefore vital that the Joint Programme have a strong, coordinating secretariat and co-sponsors that are trusted technical leaders in their fields.

19. As reflected in its inclusive governance structure, the Joint Programme represents a commitment to robust multisectoral and integrated action, synergistic partnerships, evidence- and rights-based action, equality of access and a focus on sustainability. The inclusion of civil society members representing people living with HIV and key populations on the UNAIDS Board is a one-of-a-kind example of an approach that leaves no one behind and that meaningfully engages the populations the United Nations seeks to serve.

20. The UNAIDS 2016-2021 Strategy was developed through a highly inclusive and consultative process to ensure broad ownership and consensus around the priorities for the AIDS response. The UNAIDS Board adopted the Strategy at its thirty-seventh meeting, in October 2015. It also approved a six-year budgetary framework, the Unified Budget, Results and Accountability Framework, which sets out the results and contributions of the Joint Programme to the global AIDS response. The framework details the costed collective results and the contributions of each co-sponsor and the secretariat. The Framework guides the allocation and use of core funds raised by the secretariat for the Joint Programme. It is a unique instrument in the United Nations system. The budget has a core component that is biennially costed at $485 million. That represents a zero-growth budget for the fifth consecutive biennium since 2008.

A. Delivering as one

21. The Joint Programme works to ensure that the United Nations system "delivers as one" in supporting national AIDS responses. It has developed a clear division of labour for the 11 co-sponsors and secretariat. With the aim of leveraging the core competencies, mandates and comparative advantages of each co-sponsor and the secretariat, the division of labour designates convening and partner agencies for 15 thematic areas.[3] It also helps the Joint Programme to avoid duplication and harness collaboration and coordination, while clarifying roles and responsibilities.

22. At the regional level, the Joint Programme is operationalized through joint teams and joint programmes of support. These are supported and coordinated through six UNAIDS secretariat regional support teams in close collaboration with co-sponsors' regional staff working on AIDS.

23. At the country level, the UNAIDS Country Director works under the leadership of the Resident Coordinator to facilitate coordinated support for national AIDS responses by the United Nations country team. Technical-level joint teams on AIDS are in place to enhance coherence, accountability and the strategic impact of technical support. In many countries, joint teams have been expanded to include other partners, broadening the coordination of technical support.

[3] The 15 thematic areas are: prevention of sexual transmission; prevention of mother-to-child HIV transmission; HIV treatment; HIV/tuberculosis; prevention among people who inject drugs; prevention among men who have sex with men, sex workers and transgender people; punitive laws, stigma and discrimination; meeting the needs of women and girls; prevention among young people; HIV-related social protection; HIV in humanitarian emergencies; HIV, food and nutrition; the workplace and the private sector; HIV and education; and national strategic planning.

B. Reporting and accountability

24. During the reporting period, the Joint Programme was called upon by the UNAIDS Board to improve the Unified Budget, Results and Accountability Framework. In 2015, the Board established a working group to review the Framework and to recommend improvements. The working group called for more prominent outputs and output descriptions, a clearer explanation of the boundaries and limitations of the Framework and strengthened reporting on the use of non-core funding. As a result, in 2016, UNAIDS put in place a more detailed and prioritized Unified Budget, Result and Accountability Framework to operationalize the UNAIDS 2016-2021 Strategy. The revised Framework includes a clear results chain, from inputs to impact, and enables Member States and other stakeholders to hold the Joint Programme accountable for results. The revised Framework has been recognized as being simpler, clearer and more streamlined and for providing an improved reflection of regional differences, as well as more clarity on the roles and functions of the co-sponsors and the secretariat.

25. The Framework leverages core UNAIDS funding for the mobilization of substantially greater resources by the co-sponsors through their own resource mobilization frameworks.

26. The UNAIDS performance monitoring report, submitted annually to the UNAIDS Board, summarizes the achievements of the Joint Programme at the country, regional and global levels and outlines key challenges and lessons learned. The report enables understanding of Joint Programme contributions as a whole and those of the co-sponsors and the secretariat individually.

27. Performance reporting under the Framework is facilitated through a web-based tool, the Joint Programme Monitoring System, which was introduced in 2012. That tool, which was used to collate reports from approximately 100 United Nations country teams and/or UNAIDS country offices in 2016, has strengthened the Joint Programme's ability to make rapid adjustments in response to performance information. Annual peer reviews evaluate progress and performance, identify areas where additional efforts are needed and ensure that lessons learned are taken on board for future planning.

C. Partnership

28. Itself an innovative partnership within the United Nations system, the Joint Programme prioritizes partnerships as a core value. It fosters inclusive partnerships to bring together the United Nations, Governments, people living with HIV, civil society, major financing institutions, the academic and scientific communities, the media and influential public figures and the private sector behind the global AIDS response. The commitment of UNAIDS to partnerships has contributed to historic achievements, including a 99 per cent drop in the cost of standard life-saving antiretroviral medicines over the past 15 years and the rapid introduction of technological and other innovations in resource-limited settings.

29. Normative guidance and data produced by the Joint Programme is used by many partners, including the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief. The Emergency Plan has noted the importance of such work to its funding and programming decisions and that that work has been a key factor in its decision to maintain its annual $45 million allocation to the core Framework. At the same time, the Emergency Plan is also an important source of localized strategic information, which helps the Joint

Programme to provide richer and granular understandings of countries' AIDS epidemics and responses.

30. The Joint Programme has played a particularly important role in supporting countries in attracting and using funding from the Global Fund. It complements the Global Fund's work with technical support and community mobilization that enables civil society organizations, people living with HIV and other affected communities to play powerful roles in the AIDS response. To date, the Joint Programme has assisted more than 100 countries in mobilizing and effectively using more than $16 billion disbursed by the Fund.

31. For example, in 2014, UNAIDS supported Kenya in convening stakeholders and in producing accurate subnational data, allowing the country to develop a prioritized strategic framework and a more targeted Global Fund concept note, based on gap analyses, mapping of risks, vulnerability and barriers, as well as an analysis of returns on investment. In Lesotho, UNAIDS and the Global Partnership to Stop Tuberculosis supported the country in piloting a joint HIV and tuberculosis gender assessment tool in order to better understand the HIV and tuberculosis epidemics from a gender perspective. The findings of the assessment were fed into the Global Fund concept note and are now included in the roll-out of the Global Fund grant. In Thailand, UNAIDS supported the development of an investment case geared towards ending the AIDS epidemic with the strategic use of antiretroviral treatment as part of a combination of prevention and community-based delivery. The investment case was translated into a national strategy to end AIDS by 2030 and shaped the Global Fund grant approved in 2014. In Ukraine, the Joint Programme supported the country in developing standardized HIV prevention service packages, optimizing resources and preparing the country to ensure the sustainability of services in the context of its eventual transition out of Global Fund support.

IV. Fast tracking the response through 2020

32. In the 2016 Political Declaration, Member States agreed to a series of far-reaching, people-centred commitments for 2020 that include reducing the annual number of people newly infected with HIV to fewer than 500,000; reducing the number of people dying from AIDS-related causes to fewer than 500,000; and eliminating HIV-related discrimination.

33. The Joint Programme is making significant contributions to helping countries fulfil those commitments and achieve those milestones. It focuses on assistance to 33 fast-track countries,[4] which together account for an estimated 80 per cent of new infections in adults, 90 per cent of new infections in children and 85 per cent of AIDS-related deaths.

A. Fewer than 500,000 people dying from AIDS-related causes annually by 2020

34. The global targets of having at least 30 million people living with HIV on treatment and reducing AIDS-related deaths to fewer than 500,000 by 2020 are

[4] The fast-track countries are those countries where focused and accelerated efforts are especially needed. In addition to countries with the largest AIDS epidemics, fast-track countries include rapidly emerging economies that can help to lead the AIDS response into the future and other countries of key geopolitical relevance, such as those affected by humanitarian emergencies. At present, UNAIDS has identified 33 fast-track countries.

within reach. In the past two years, the UNAIDS "90-90-90" targets, an integral part of the UNAIDS 2016-2021 Strategy, have become accepted as a common framework among diverse stakeholders. Those targets call for 90 per cent of people living with HIV to know their HIV status, for 90 per cent of those diagnosed to receive antiretroviral therapy and for 90 per cent of the people on antiretroviral therapy to have suppressed viral loads.

35. The Joint Programme has helped countries gear towards achieving the first target (for 90 per cent of people living with HIV to know their status by 2020) as the entry point for accessing life-saving treatment. As the leading health sector entity within the Joint Programme, the World Health Organization (WHO) has used scientific evidence to develop global guidance that aims to greatly expand access to HIV testing. The Joint Programme is also advocating for lowering the age of consent for HIV testing and supporting the wider use of innovative tools and strategies, such as community-based HIV testing models and self-testing, to expand access to and the use of testing. Other examples include development by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization of educational media materials for young people and support for teacher training on HIV and health education and the continuation of the International Labour Organization's (ILO) VCT@Work initiative in 20 countries. The latter activity is expected to generate demand for HIV testing among 900,000 workers who are at risk of HIV infection in fast-track countries.

36. With respect to the second target (for 90 per cent of those diagnosed to receive antiretroviral therapy), HIV treatment coverage has expanded considerably in western and central Europe, eastern and southern Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean. With respect to the third target (for 90 per cent of the people on antiretroviral therapy to have suppressed viral loads), new results from population-based HIV impact assessments in Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe show that a high percentage of people who start treatment achieve viral suppression.[7]

37. The work of the Joint Programme helps to ensure access to treatment for all populations. ILO support for over 100 countries in scaling-up national social protection floors provides opportunities to enhance access to treatment for vulnerable populations. In humanitarian settings, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the World Food Programme (WFP) provide technical and coordination support to address HIV. UNHCR works with Governments and other partners to expand access to HIV testing and treatment for refugees and other conflict-affected populations, in particular in East and Central Africa, and to strengthen support for adherence to treatment. UNCHR and WFP also work with partners to integrate the provision of food and nutrition into the AIDS response in Africa, Asia and the Middle East. In the period 2016-2017, WFP, with support from the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, provided life-saving food and nutrition as part of an emergency response for countries in southern Africa affected by the El Niño phenomenon. WFP is working with Global Fund implementing partners (including UNDP in Zimbabwe, the United Nations Populations Fund (UNFPA) in Yemen and the Partnership for Supply Chain Management in Burundi) to prevent stock outs of HIV treatment and prevention commodities. These partnerships are good examples of activities supporting Sustainable Development Goal 17 and illustrate the ways in which the systems and activities of co-sponsors are leveraged to improve HIV and other health-related results.

[7] United States Centres for Disease Prevention and Control. New survey data from the Population-based HIV Impact Assessments Project show that critical progress has been made towards global HIV targets. Available at www.cdc.gov/globalhivtb/who-we-are/events/world-aids-day/phia-surveys.html.

B. Fewer than 500,000 people newly infected with HIV annually by 2020

38. The Joint Programme collaborates closely with international partners to focus scarce resources on geographic and population hotspots where new HIV infections are most likely to occur and supports countries in implementing comprehensive and evidence-based prevention strategies.

39. The Joint Programme has spearheaded efforts to accelerate prevention efforts among young people (aged 15-24 years), who in 2015 accounted for 32 per cent of all new HIV infections worldwide, and to address the gender dynamics of the epidemic, including the particular risks and vulnerabilities of adolescent girls and young women. Those efforts include the wider provision of cash transfers. Studies sponsored by the World Bank have found that youth-focused cash transfer schemes can reduce sexual risk behaviour and HIV incidence, especially among young women. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the UNAIDS secretariat, along with other co-sponsors, launched the "ALL IN" to End Adolescent AIDS" agenda in 2015 to address the serious gaps in the AIDS response for adolescents. This initiative has two bold objectives for 2020: (a) to reduce HIV infections among adolescents by at least 75 per cent; and (b) to increase antiretroviral therapy coverage among adolescents living with HIV to 80 per cent.

40. The "Engagement + Empowerment = Equality" effort launched by the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) has helped to develop the leadership skills of more than 1,000 young women and adolescent girls in Kenya, Malawi, Uganda and elsewhere. UNESCO and UNFPA have supported the scaling-up of sexuality education in 115 countries, including joint efforts with UN-Women around peer education to address gender-based violence in schools. UNICEF has also led the collection and dissemination of strategic information that focuses on HIV among children and adolescents.

41. The Joint Programme has also had a crucial role in advocating for and providing technical assistance to the scaling-up of evidence-based HIV prevention programmes for key populations. According to data for 2015, 36 per cent of all new HIV infections occurred among key populations and their partners. However, only about one-third of countries report having risk-reduction programmes for sex workers, while the proportion of men who have sex with men that have been reached by prevention programmes in 20 countries declined from 59 per cent in 2009 to 40 per cent in 2013. The availability of and access to evidence-based harm reduction services for people who inject drugs also remains low. Out of 158 countries reporting data on the injection of drugs, only 57 per cent are implementing needle and syringe programmes and only 51 per cent have at least one opioid substitution therapy programme in place. The Joint Programme, along with the Global Fund, the Emergency Plan and key population networks, continues to support the roll-out of programme implementation tools for key populations in all fast-track countries and other selected countries to ensure that comprehensive prevention programmes are available and accessible to all who need them.

42. Male and female condoms remain a critical component of comprehensive HIV prevention programmes. In order to increase the availability of female-controlled prevention methods, the Joint Programme and key partners have published generic specifications and pre-qualification guidelines for female condoms to guide and incentivize manufacturers. Going forward, it will be necessary to increase the availability of female-controlled HIV prevention methods and complement those efforts with programmes that build the capacity of women and girls to negotiate safer sex and increase their autonomy in decision-making.

63. The Joint Programme continues to support the scaling-up of other evidence-based prevention services, such as voluntary medical male circumcision, which reduces the risk of female-to-male sexual transmission of HIV by approximately 60 per cent. By the end of 2016, 11.7 million men had undergone that procedure in 14 priority countries in eastern and southern Africa. WHO is leading efforts to promote and provide suitable service packages for that intervention. The Joint Programme also recommends the use of antiretroviral medicines as pre-exposure prophylaxis and as an additional prevention method for men who have sex with men and for sero-discordant couples. It is estimated that the use of pre-exposure prophylaxis could reduce global HIV incidence among men who have sex with men by 20 to 30 per cent, averting up to 1 million new infections over 10 years.

C. Elimination of HIV-related stigma and discrimination by 2020

64. The 2030 Agenda strives to leave no one behind, with the aim of fostering "peaceful, just and inclusive societies which are free from fear and violence" and envisages "a world of universal respect for human rights and human dignity, the rule of law, justice, equality and non-discrimination". In the 2016 Political Declaration, Member States also committed to national AIDS strategies that empower people living with, at risk of and affected by HIV and that support human rights and access to justice.

65. With the support of the Joint Programme, many Member States have been reviewing or revising their legal, social and policy frameworks. In addition, UNDP is working with Governments, civil society and the wider United Nations system in 93 countries to implement the recommendations of the Global Commission on HIV and the Law with the aim of building enabling legal and policy environments.

66. The Joint Programme has also supported many countries in taking practical measures to eliminate HIV-related travel restrictions; increasing the legal literacy of people living with HIV and key populations; increasing access to justice; building the capacity of legislators, police, judges and health-care workers with respect to HIV and human rights; eliminating stigma and discrimination; and expanding community-led services. For example, the Joint Programme has worked with the national AIDS programme in Argentina to establish key population-friendly health services, to undertake activities to educate people living with HIV about their rights and to respond to complaints related to HIV-related discrimination. In Thailand, the Joint Programme has supported an ambitious and evidence-based initiative to reduce HIV-related stigma and discrimination in health-care settings. The Thai initiative has been such a success that it is being adapted and implemented in other South-East Asian countries. UN-Women is working in 36 countries to increase gender expertise in national AIDS coordinating bodies and to promote the engagement of networks of women living with HIV.

67. The UNAIDS Board has decided to devote one day during its forty-first meeting, in 2017, to the review of the impact of stigma and discrimination in health-care settings. This decision has been triggered, in part, by studies indicating that participatory training for health workers and other staff in health facilities, involving people living with HIV and led by peers, combined with policy guidance on how to make a health facility stigma-free and the provision of resources (including supplies) for health workers, has been shown to reduce stigmatizing behaviours and the experience of stigma among people living with HIV.

V. The Joint Programme model in a new political and financial context

48. In late 2015, some major donors reduced their contributions to the Joint Programme. The move coincided with the adoption of the ambitious UNAIDS 2016-2021 Strategy to fast track the global AIDS response and came at a time when demands were growing for multisectoral, multi-stakeholder approaches to health and development. As a result, by June 2016, revenue for the Joint Programme for 2016 was projected at $168 million — a shortfall of some 30 per cent compared with that approved in the Unified Budget, Results and Accountability Framework.

49. At the UNAIDS financing dialogue in June 2016 and during the 2016 meetings of the UNAIDS Board, all constituencies expressed their full political support for UNAIDS, its new Strategy and its ongoing work. Until 2016, the Joint Programme had always been successful in ensuring the full allocation of core resources approved by the Board to co-sponsors and the secretariat. However, a significant shift in multilateral official development assistance to migrant- and refugee-related expenditures and other domestic priorities changed that scenario. Some traditional donor countries informed UNAIDS that internal reallocations of resources meant that they would not be able to sustain or increase their financial contributions. In addition, the appreciation of the United States dollar against other major currencies led to a reduced dollar value of contributions from key donors who maintained their contribution levels in local currencies. Together, these developments led to a disconcerting financial situation for the Joint Programme.

A. The need for an effective multilateral architecture to support the implementation of the AIDS response

50. The establishment of the Joint Programme initiated a transformation of the national and global health and development architecture to respond to AIDS. Inspired by the leadership and advocacy of UNAIDS, a broad coalition of Governments, development partners, civil society organizations, researchers, scientists and the private sector has come together and demonstrated that inclusive multi-stakeholder and multisectoral approaches can deliver essential health services and strengthen social justice.

51. In order for the world to fast track its AIDS response and achieve the targets and commitments for 2020 and 2030, the Joint Programme will be more relevant than ever. The normative guidance, policy and technical leadership and programmatic actions of the co-sponsors are complemented by the secretariat's roles in political leadership and advocacy, convening stakeholders, generating strategic information and giving voice to people living with, at risk of and affected by HIV. The vital nature of the Joint Programme's role is widely recognized.

B. Implications of the funding shortfall for the Joint Programme

52. The existence of a core-funding shortfall of some 30 per cent for 2016, amounting to about $70 million, implied significant reductions in the core funding for the secretariat and for the HIV work of co-sponsors. Consequently, secretariat staff was reduced by 100 in 2016, and the budgets for activities were reduced by 50 per cent. The allocation to co-sponsors was also reduced by 50 per cent. The co-sponsors were not in a position to make up the shortfall in such unique and flexible funding by using their own resources. As a result, the number of staff

working on HIV at co-sponsor organizations was reduced by 27 per cent (from 862 to 629 full-time equivalent staff) in 2016.

53. In December 2016, the Executive Director of the Joint Programme presented the UNAIDS Board with a full analysis of the implications of further reductions of core funding for the co-sponsors and the Joint Programme. Based on that analysis, the Executive Director, in consultation with the Heads of the co-sponsoring organizations, proposed to the Board that the 2016 level of funding for the co-sponsors be maintained as core funding in 2017. The Board endorsed that proposal. Maintaining core funding at the 2016 level in 2017 would enable co-sponsors to remain actively engaged in the work of the Joint Programme and play vital roles in the AIDS response. However, it was recognized that work would have to be performed with significantly reduced dedicated HIV capacity in many countries.

54. Financing the UNAIDS budget will require broadening the donor base, to include developing countries and private sector donors, and encouraging existing donors to review and increase their current financial commitments. Looking ahead, the co-sponsors will also continue efforts to mobilize more resources for AIDS. Further mainstreaming and integration of HIV into co-sponsor programmes and strategies will be important for dealing with the uncertain funding environment and for ending AIDS by 2030. There have also been calls from Member States and civil society, including the UNAIDS Board, to investigate whether the Joint Programme's work in support of Global Fund grant development and implementation could be resourced through the Global Fund.

C. Towards refining the operating model of the Joint Programme

55. In order to operate at its full potential and remain at the cutting edge of United Nations reform, the Joint Programme must evolve with the changing AIDS epidemic, the changing political and financial context of the AIDS response and the changing broader development agenda.

56. The UNAIDS Board has tasked a multi-stakeholder global review panel with making recommendations on refining the Joint Programme model in order for UNAIDS to be sustainable and fit for purpose. The panel validated the unique contribution of the Joint Programme to the global AIDS response and pointed to its particular relevance in this new era of United Nations reform. The panel's recommendations on refining and reinforcing the model are being taken forward to the Board at its fortieth meeting, in June 2017.

57. Since its inception, the Joint Programme has been a pioneer in inclusive partnerships, cross-sectoral collaboration and results-based leadership. UNAIDS remains at the forefront of United Nations reform. It proactively addresses the challenges of a shifting development and budgetary environment, and it embraces the opportunity and obligation to work ever more effectively and efficiently across priorities and sectors. It continues to lead and inspire the global movement to end AIDS as a public health threat.

58. A fully funded Unified Budget, Results and Accountability Framework and the core funding for co-sponsors through the Framework are vital for the effective functioning of the Joint Programme. The Framework funding constitutes flexible and predictable funding that ensures the implementation of an ambitious work programme that includes the Joint Programme's role in ensuring that Global Fund resources yield the best possible results. Going forward, there is also a need to further strengthen the accountability of the Joint Programme and the accountability

of each co-sponsor. That will require improvements in documenting and reporting the added value of the Joint Programme as a whole and that of each co-sponsor.

VI. Recommendations towards ending the AIDS epidemic by 2030

59. The Economic and Social Council may wish to consider the following actions:

(a) Commend the Joint Programme for its leadership and advocacy to keep AIDS response on the political agenda and ensure a common global vision, strategy and bold targets for fast tracking the AIDS response, as expressed in the Sustainable Development Goals, the UNAIDS 2016-2021 Strategy and the 2016 Political Declaration;

(b) Call upon the Joint Programme to continue to drive progress in the implementation of the UNAIDS 2016-2021 Strategy, the 2016 Political Declaration and in meeting the key targets by 2020, towards the commitment of ending the AIDS epidemic by 2030, as part of the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as continue to assist countries in reporting on the AIDS response;

(c) Note with concern that, while strong progress is being made in reducing mortality among people living with HIV, earlier declines in the annual number of new HIV infections are leveling off and HIV incidence is increasing among key populations, and that young women and girls continue to be disproportionately affected by HIV, which calls for a renewed call for increased efforts on HIV prevention;

(d) Reaffirm Economic and Social Council resolution 2015/2 and the relevant commitments in the 2016 Political Declaration, in particular the value of the lessons learned from the global AIDS response for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the lessons learned from the unique approach of the Joint Programme;

(e) Request the Joint Programme to continue to contribute to the follow-up to and review process of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including at the high-level political forum on sustainable development, to ensure that adequate consideration is given to the AIDS response as part of the target 3.3 of the 2030 Agenda, and its interlinkages with other sustainable development goals and targets;

(f) Note with concern the reduced international financing for AIDS at a time when an historic opportunity exists to end the AIDS epidemic. The next four years provide a narrow window of opportunity to accelerate the response by 2020 and to lay the foundation to end the epidemic by 2030;

(g) Stress the importance of a fully funded Unified Budget, Results and Accountability Framework for the effective functioning of the Joint Programme, and call for renewed efforts to close the current funding gap; and express support for the resource mobilization efforts of the Joint Programme, including by calling upon existing donors to maintain and step up their contributions, inviting new donors to join from both public and private sectors and considering innovative resources and arrangements for funding, including with the Global Fund;

(h) Commend efforts to refine and reinforce the operating model of the Joint Programme so it can more effectively support countries in achieving their commitments and remain at the forefront of United Nations reform.

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Progress report on the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns

Note by the Secretary-General

Summary

The Secretary-General is transmitting herewith the progress report on the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns, prepared by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) pursuant to General Assembly resolutions 67/203, 68/210, 69/214 and 70/201. This follows the annual reports submitted in 2015 (E/2015/56) and 2016 (E/2016/62). The objectives of the present report are to share with Member States and stakeholders the activities of the 10-year framework and the latest developments, highlighting key outputs, challenges and opportunities. The report is hereby submitted through the Economic and Social Council for consideration at the high-level political forum on sustainable development in 2017.

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I. The 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns

1. The 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns, adopted at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in 2012, serves as a global framework for action to accelerate the shift towards sustainable consumption and production in both developed and developing countries. The 10-year framework generates collective impact through multi-stakeholder programmes, which develop, replicate and scale up sustainable consumption and production policies and initiatives at all levels, fosters knowledge and experience sharing and facilitates access to technical and financial resources for developing countries.

2. The important transversal role of sustainable consumption and production as an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development has been clearly affirmed with the inclusion of a stand-alone Sustainable Development Goal on sustainable consumption and production (Goal 12). The central role of the 10-year framework in achieving this shift is affirmed in a specific target on framework implementation (target 12.1).

3. The 10-year framework programmes bring together actors, expertise and resources to deliver sustainable consumption and production, in an operational manner and at an increasing scale. Inclusive and action-oriented, the programmes aim to build synergies and cooperation, bringing together existing initiatives and partners, leverage resources towards common objectives and scale up and replicate successful policies and best practices for sustainable consumption and production. They also generate and support new projects and activities on sustainable consumption and production in response to regional and national priorities and needs as they emerge. There are currently six programmes in the framework.

4. The 10-year framework contributes to the eradication of poverty and the promotion of prosperity in a changing world, which will be the theme of the high-level political forum in 2017, by accelerating the shift to sustainable consumption and production, in order to increase resource efficiency and decouple economic growth from environmental degradation, thereby creating decent jobs and contributing to poverty eradication and shared prosperity. The 10-year framework network and activities directly foster or catalyse changes in policies and practices that contribute to this theme.

5. Sustainable public procurement not only allows Governments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve resource efficiency, but also contributes to poverty reduction, improved equity, productive employment and decent jobs. Sustainable tourism places the eradication of poverty at the heart of its activities, in particular through the creation of livelihoods through sustainable tourism. Sustainable food systems are critical to improving food security and nutrition and to poverty alleviation. The goal of consumer information on sustainability is to ensure that everyone has access to reliable and understandable information on the sustainability of goods and services. Through sustainable lifestyles and education, sustainable practices in daily life help to minimize the negative impact of environmental change for the most vulnerable and contribute to the creation of new income opportunities and of more diversified and sustainable livelihoods. The concept of sustainable buildings and construction includes social housing, the reduction of emissions that cause climate change and the strengthening of resilience and knowledge-sharing, with the aim of integrating the most vulnerable segments of society.

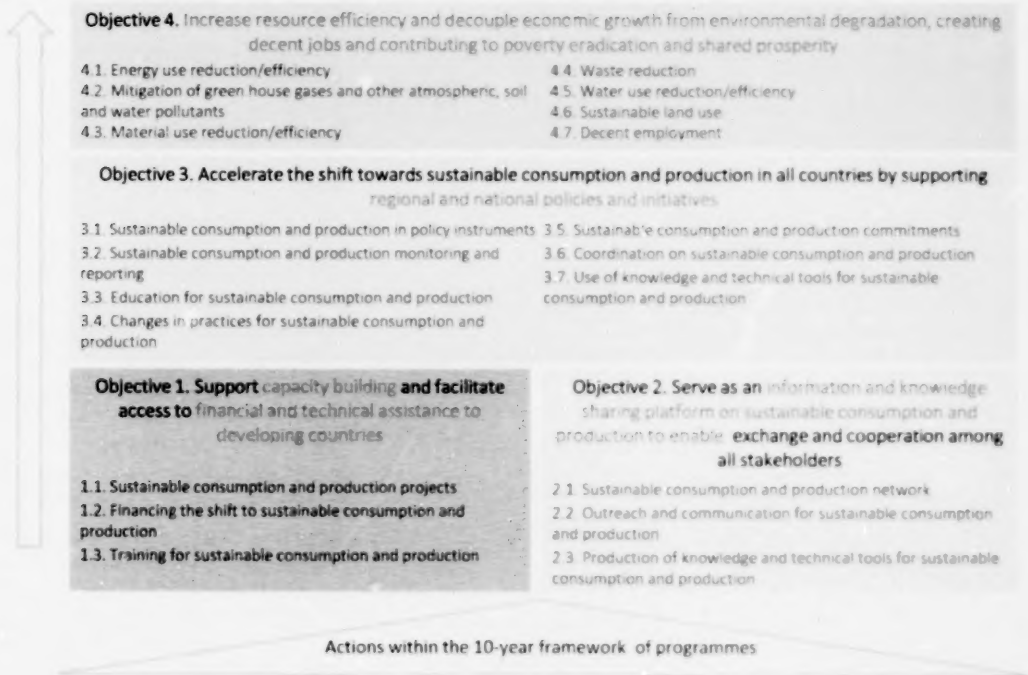
6. The present report presents the progress in the implementation of the 10-year framework, highlights key activities and outputs of the framework in 2016 and identifies opportunities and challenges to be addressed in the following years. The report has been prepared on behalf of the framework board by the secretariat of the framework, in cooperation with the framework programmes. It responds to General Assembly resolution 70/201, in which the Assembly requested the board and the secretariat to submit updated reports for consideration at the high-level political forum on sustainable development.

II. Progress of the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production

7. Following the operationalization of the six programmes of the 10-year framework in 2015, efforts in 2016 have primarily focused on their implementation and on key activities to facilitate the engagement of the framework network.

8. Indicators of success for the 10-year framework and for the shift to sustainable consumption and production[1] were identified and piloted by the framework monitoring and evaluation task force in 2016. The overall objective of the task force is to use the framework indicators of success to guide and measure, in a participatory way, the collective impact of the shift to sustainable consumption and production worldwide. The indicators of success are intended to reflect key milestones in the global shift to sustainable consumption and production, primarily as supported by the 10-year framework, with the objective of expanding beyond that primary scope.

Figure 1
Framework indicators of success: pilot reporting exercise 2016


Objective 4. Increase resource efficiency and decouple economic growth from environmental degradation, creating decent jobs and contributing to poverty eradication and shared prosperity
4.1. Energy use reduction/efficiency
4.2. Mitigation of green house gases and other atmospheric, soil and water pollutants
4.3. Material use reduction/efficiency
4.4. Waste reduction
4.5. Water use reduction/efficiency
4.6. Sustainable land use
4.7. Decent employment
Objective 3. Accelerate the shift towards sustainable consumption and production in all countries by supporting regional and national policies and initiatives
3.1. Sustainable consumption and production in policy instruments
3.2. Sustainable consumption and production monitoring and reporting
3.3. Education for sustainable consumption and production
3.4. Changes in practices for sustainable consumption and production
3.5. Sustainable consumption and production commitments
3.6. Coordination on sustainable consumption and production
3.7. Use of knowledge and technical tools for sustainable consumption and production
Objective 1. Support capacity building and facilitate access to financial and technical assistance to developing countries
1.1. Sustainable consumption and production projects
1.2. Financing the shift to sustainable consumption and production
1.3. Training for sustainable consumption and production
Objective 2. Serve as an information and knowledge sharing platform on sustainable consumption and production to enable exchange and cooperation among all stakeholders
2.1. Sustainable consumption and production network
2.2. Outreach and communication for sustainable consumption and production
2.3. Production of knowledge and technical tools for sustainable consumption and production
Actions within the 10-year framework of programmes

[1] See www.scpclearinghouse.org/sites/default/files/10yfp_-_demonstrating_progress_and_impact_framework.pdf.

9. The indicators of success aim to support the framework actors and other stakeholders working on sustainable consumption and production in: (a) assessing and improving performance to inform the planning of activities and the allocation of funds; and (b) in reporting and demonstrating progress to show accountability towards all actors and donors, communicate results to the wider public and mobilize political and financial support. The indicators are informed by the relevant Sustainable Development Goals and associated targets and indicators, in particular those associated with Goal 12 on ensuring sustainable consumption and production patterns. An overview of the indicators is presented in figure 1.

Table 1
Results of the pilot reporting exercise

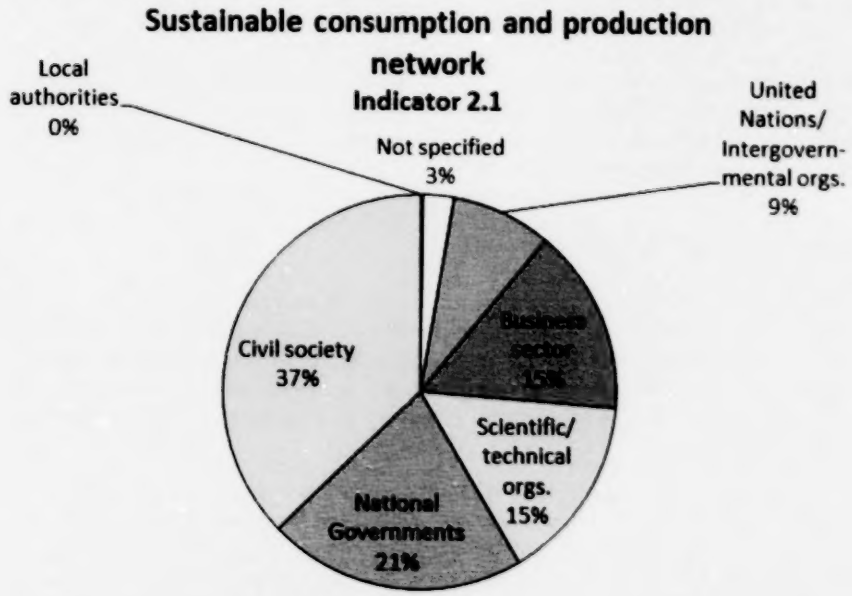
Indicator		*Reported in 2016*	*Total reported (from programme start to 2016)*	*Unit of measurement*
1.1	Projects supporting sustainable consumption and production	121	140	Number of projects supporting the shift to sustainable consumption and production
1.2	Amount of financial resources (in United States dollars) made available	Pending verification	$79.44 million	Funds made available in support of the shift to sustainable consumption and production
1.3	Training for sustainable consumption and production	26 761	32 533	Number of person-days of training on sustainable consumption and production
2.1	Sustainable consumption and production network	95	647	Number of Governments and other organizations engaged in the 10-year framework and its programmes
2.2	Outreach and communication for sustainable consumption and production	321	513	Number of outreach and communication activities focusing on sustainable consumption and production
2.3	Production of knowledge and technical tools	174	291	Number of knowledge resources and technical tools produced for sustainable consumption and production
3.1	Sustainable consumption and production in policy instruments	219	253	Number of Governments and other organizations developing, adopting or implementing (or in process of implementing) policy instruments supporting the shift to sustainable consumption and production
3.2	Sustainable consumption and production monitoring and reporting	2	49	Number of Governments and other organizations officially establishing monitoring and reporting on sustainable consumption and production
3.3	Education for sustainable consumption and production	5	5	Number of countries integrating sustainable consumption and production topics into education practices
3.4	Sustainable consumption and production changes in practices	10	10	Number of changes in practices and production processes supporting the shift to sustainable consumption and production
3.5	Sustainable consumption and production commitments	379	572	Number of high-level commitments covering sustainable consumption and production
3.6	Coordination on sustainable consumption and production	12	16	Number of intersectoral and/or multi-stakeholder mechanisms for coordination on sustainable consumption and production
3.7	Use of knowledge and technical tools	Not reported	Not reported	Number of downloads from the sustainable consumption and production clearinghouse and any other quantitative representation of use
4	Impacts	Work in progress		

10. A pilot reporting exercise against these indicators was undertaken; the results of the reporting exercise across the 10-year framework for the period 2013-2016 are provided in table 1. Since the data highlighted in the present report stem from the pilot reporting exercise, the data is to be considered as preliminary. Data quality may vary from indicator to indicator and from programme to programme. The data will be subject to updating and further data quality assurance processes to improve framework reporting processes and systems and to ensure reliable and consistent reporting on framework activities related to sustainable consumption and production and indicator 12.1.1 for Goal 12.

11. The methodology developed for the indicator of success 3.1 on policy instruments for sustainable consumption and production was submitted as the methodology for Goal indicator 12.1.1. Developments concerning methodology on other Goal indicators relevant to the 10-year framework will be considered for further integration as they become available.

12. The multi-stakeholder nature of the 10-year framework programmes is illustrated by the composition of their network, wherein Governments, civil society, the business sector, academia and international organizations are well represented. The framework network, in addition to the programmes, also includes 129 national focal points, stakeholder focal points, a 20-member United Nations inter-agency coordination group, the secretariat and the board.

Figure 2
Distribution of 10-year framework programme actors by stakeholder group, based on indicator 2.1



13. The sustainable consumption and production clearinghouse functions as the knowledge management platform of the 10-year framework and is the public face of the projects, initiatives and tools of the framework programmes and beyond. Members have access to thousands of pieces of easily searchable data, through which they can find collaboration opportunities based on their expertise and areas of interest. Therein, the more than 3,300 members of the sustainable consumption and production clearinghouse from across regions and sectors, representing more than

2,000 governmental and non-governmental institutions, can highlight the work of their organizations and search events, publications and collaboration opportunities to scale up their efforts across the diverse thematic and sectoral disciplines of sustainable consumption and production.

14. The sustainable consumption and production clearinghouse underwent an extensive upgrading to respond to increased stakeholder needs. The upgraded sustainable consumption and production clearinghouse, launched in November 2016, utilizes the most recent technologies and provides state-of-the-art databases, tools and other functionalities to its users. The 10-year framework programmes have each been provided their own hubs within the platform: (a) to manage their portfolios of activities, providing an accessible menu of what is happening in each programme; and (b) to easily communicate what they are doing, who is doing what and how to engage. A new exchange spaces module allows stakeholders to form public or private online collaboration hubs for document sharing, event planning, discussions, task management and more. The upgraded sustainable consumption and production clearinghouse can be viewed at: www.scpclearinghouse.org.

15. The United Nations inter-agency coordination group for the 10-year framework agreed in November 2016 to strengthen joint engagement and coordinated delivery on sustainable consumption and production, raise the profile of the framework across United Nations agencies and engage in joint resource mobilization efforts.

16. The United Nations has expressed additional support for the 10-year framework. In 2016, in its resolution on sustainable consumption and production, the United Nations Environment Assembly encouraged all Member States and relevant stakeholders to take ambitious action to implement the 10-year framework and to achieve the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development that are related to sustainable consumption and production (UNEP/EA.2/Res.8). That call was further strengthened by other resolutions and declarations related to sustainable food systems and sustainable tourism, as highlighted in the dedicated sections below.

A. Sustainable public procurement

17. The sustainable public procurement programme, launched in April 2014, is led by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and co-led by the Korea Environmental Industry and Technology Institute and ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability. The programme is supported by an 18-member multi-stakeholder advisory committee and, with the addition of 19 new partners in 2016, now has a total of 103 partners.

18. The sustainable public procurement programme operates on a biennial workplan. The workplan for the period 2016-2017 revolves around four main pillars: (a) implementing sustainable public procurement on the ground; (b) assessing implementation and the impacts of sustainable public procurement; (c) identifying obstacles and promoting innovative solutions; and (d) collaborating with the private sector. The workplan also includes a number of core activities, including knowledge management, outreach, communication and cross-cutting research activities. An area of focus of the programme in 2016 was on improving its communication tools and expanding its network.

19. With respect to the framework indicators of success, the sustainable public procurement programme reported the following data on outcomes for 2016:

Table 2
Sustainable public procurement programme (2016)

Indicator		Total
1.1	Projects supporting sustainable consumption and production	97
1.3	Training for sustainable consumption and production (person-days)	1 508
2.1	Sustainable consumption and production network (number of Governments/ organizations)	161
2.2	Outreach and communication activities for sustainable consumption and production	179
2.3	Production of knowledge and technical tools	89
3.1	Sustainable consumption and production (s) policy instruments (number of Governments/organizations)	2
3.2	Sustainable consumption and production monitoring and reporting (number of Governments/organizations)	1

20. At the international level, stakeholder participation increased greatly in 2016. This is evidenced by a higher number of individual experts and organizations taking part in the programme's working groups and the webinars organized by UNEP and its partners.

21. The programme reported 1,508 person-days of training in 2016, bringing the number of person-days of training on sustainable public procurement to 6,141. Training sessions were delivered by different programme actors, including UNEP, the Government of Costa Rica, the Government of the Netherlands, the Korea Environmental Industry and Technology Institute (KEITI), the Fundación Centro de Gestión Tecnológica e Informática Industrial (CEGESTI), Corvers Procurement Service, Ecoinstitut, the Green Electronics Council and the Institut des Finances Basil Fuleihan, among others.

Figure 3
Training and knowledge resources and tools reported by the sustainable public procurement programme for 2016

22. There were 89 knowledge resources and tools reported by the sustainable public procurement programme in 2016, bringing the total to 197. Although the majority of those were reports, there were also guidelines, technical tools, educational materials, policy briefs, manuals and other items. Guidelines with a

global and regional scope included "Buying green! A handbook on green public procurement",[7] published by the European Commission; "The procura+ manual: a guide to implementing sustainable procurement",[8] developed by ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability; and "Measuring and communicating the benefits of sustainable public procurement: baseline review and development of a guidance framework",[9] developed by UNEP.

23. The final report on monitoring sustainable public procurement implementation[10] was published in February 2016 by working group 2a. The report included recommendations for enabling frameworks and efficient sustainable public procurement monitoring systems at the organization level; recommendations for an international framework to report on progress in sustainable public procurement; and case studies detailing how Governments at different levels and in different parts of the world monitor their sustainable public procurement programmes.

24. A report on promoting the participation of small and medium-sized enterprises in green public procurement[11] was produced by working group 2c, led by the Fundación Centro de Gestión Tecnológica e Informática Industrial. The issuance of that report concluded the activities of the working group in 2016.

25. Between 2015 and 2016, the programme prepared a new edition of "Global Review of Sustainable Public Procurement", which will be published in 2017. Building on the findings of the first edition, published in 2013, the global review will aim to track the progress made in the field of sustainable public procurement around the world over the past three years.

26. The working group on sustainable public procurement tender implementation and impact monitoring (working group 1a), launched in December 2016 and led by ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability, will act as a lighthouse project and provide support to purchasing bodies in East Asia to procure the best available sustainable products and services in sectors that are highly relevant in terms of potential energy and CO_2 emission reductions and social impacts.

27. A working group on improving collaboration between sustainable public procurement and sustainability labels and standards (working group 4b2) was launched in 2016 and is led by the ISEAL Alliance. The objective of this working group is to improve and increase dialogue between organizations working on sustainability standards and labelling schemes and those working on sustainable public procurement. The group provides a platform to raise awareness, share tools and good practices, discuss challenges and come up with innovative solutions to strengthen the linkages between sustainable public procurement and eco-labelling. In 2016, the working group developed two newsletters and webinars: the first focused on specific tools and guidance for procurers and the second addressed how the Sustainable Development Goals provide a new framework for interaction among those who specialize in public procurement and sustainability standards.

28. Further emphasizing the link between the programme and the Goals, a call for proposals was initiated in 2016 for a working group that would focus on collecting

[7] Available from www.sppcleaninghouse.org/resources/buying-green-handbook-green-public-procurement.

[8] Available from www.sppcleaninghouse.org/resources/procura-manual-guide-implementing-sustainable-procurement.

[9] Available from www.sppcleaninghouse.org/resources/measuring-and-communicating-benefits-sustainable-public-procurement-spp-baseline-review-and.

[10] Available from www.sppcleaninghouse.org/resources/monitoring-sustainable-public-procurement-implementation.

[11] See www.dropbox.com/s/y5f1dj844mqr453/Final_Report_10YFP_SPP_WG_3C.pdf?dl=0.

data and measuring Goal indicator 12.7.1 on the number of countries implementing sustainable public procurement policies and action plans.

29. In 2016, 27 outreach and communication activities were reported, bringing the total to 62. They included outreach events, communication campaigns, social media activities and communications materials. As part of this outreach effort, the sustainable public procurement programme organized 9 webinars in 2016 that reached nearly 1,000 individuals.[7] Building on synergies with the Sustainable Public Procurement and Eco-labelling project, countries have benefited from knowledge sharing and capacity building provided by the sustainable public procurement programme through webinars, meetings and conferences.

30. Full details on the sustainable public procurement portfolio of activities and partners are available on the website of the sustainable consumption and production clearinghouse.[8]

II. Sustainable tourism

31. The sustainable tourism programme, launched late 2014, is led by the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), and co-led by the Governments of France, Morocco and the Republic of Korea. The programme is supported by a 22-member multi-stakeholder advisory committee[9] and brings together a total of 127 actors.[10] In 2016, at the end of the first two-year term of the advisory committee, 17 members were renewed and 5 new members were elected.

32. During its second year of operation, the sustainable tourism programme continued to serve as a collaborative platform to bring together existing initiatives and partnerships and facilitate new activities to accelerate the shift towards sustainable consumption and production patterns in the tourism sector. Two meetings of the multi-stakeholder advisory committee, in April and September 2016, finalized the selection of trust fund projects, launched an annual magazine in 2015, disseminated branding guidelines and supported the organizing of the programme's annual conference and international symposium, held during the twenty-second Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, in November 2016, among other events.

Table 3

Sustainable tourism programme (2016)

[illegible]		Result targets
6.0	Projects supporting sustainable consumption and production	31
8.0	Training for sustainable consumption and production (person-days)	10 112
2.0	Sustainable consumption and production network (number of Governments/ organizations)	127
2.2	Outreach and communication activities for sustainable consumption and production	47
3.0	Production of knowledge and technical tools	38
9.0	Sustainable consumption and production in policy instruments (number of Governments/organizations)	2

[7] See www.youtube.com/user/SCPClearinghouse.

[8] See www.scpclearinghouse.org/sustainable-public-procurement/portfolio-work.

[9] See http://tdt.unwto.org/mac-10y/fp-stp.

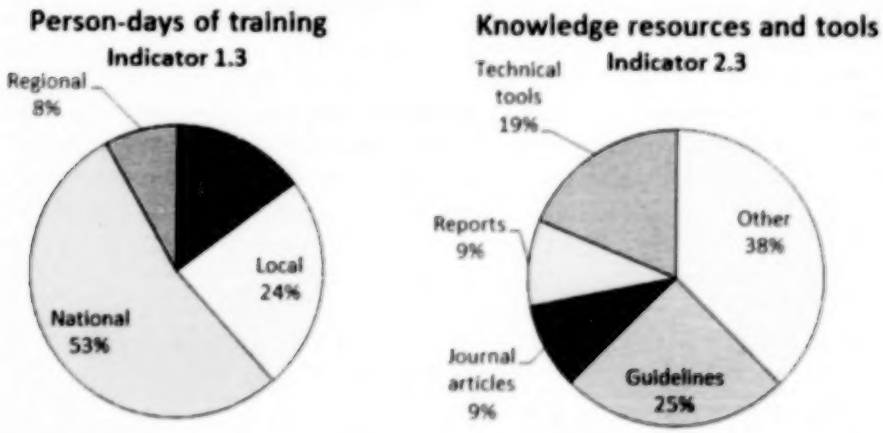
[10] See http://tdt.unwto.org/partners-10y/fp-stp.

Indicator		Result totals
3.2	Sustainable consumption and production monitoring and reporting (number of Governments/organizations)	1
3.5	Sustainable consumption and production commitments	185
3.6	Coordination for sustainable consumption and production (number of mechanisms)	1

33. A total of 47 sustainable tourism programme actors reported on the 10-year framework indicators in 2016 and linked more than 135 activities to the programme portfolio and work areas. Of those, a total of 31 projects on sustainable consumption and production and tourism were reported, with over 33 countries benefitting from their implementation. In general, projects combined capacity building and awareness raising (89 per cent), a focus on policy frameworks and tools (61 per cent), research (39 per cent) and financial instruments and investments (21 per cent).

34. Relevant projects focused on, among others things, a labelling system for awarding barrier-free tourism and sustainable destination designations, implemented by the Government of Germany (the Federal Environment Ministry and the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy); sustainable tourism criteria for the Global Sustainable Tourism Council; a sustainable coastal tourism project reported by Jlag; a food-waste prevention programme by LightBlue Environmental Consulting; the report "Tourism Trends and Policies 2016",[11] with a section on sustainable consumption and production, by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD); the standards programme of Sustainable Travel International; Tesouros de Galicia's "We Water Experience" project; the Tourism Company's transboundary standards project; the TUI Group's project addressing the strain on water resources in the Maldives; and the United Nations Development Programme's "Seychelles Protected Area Finance" project.

Figure 4
Training and knowledge resources and tools reported by the sustainable tourism programme in 2016



35. The sustainable tourism programme reported that 10,112 person-days of training had been implemented by its actors in 2016. Most of those training sessions

[11] Available from www.oecd.org/cfe/tourism/oecd-tourism-trends-and-policies-20767773.htm.

had either national (53 per cent) or local (24 per cent) scope and focused on climate change (72 per cent), energy (69 per cent), materials use (63 per cent), waste (63 per cent) and water use (59 per cent). They were implemented by the Brazilian Tour Operators Association, the Federation of Community-Based Tourism Organizations, the "gutundgut gmbh" consulting firm, the Institut de la Francophonie pour le développement durable, the Japan Ecolodge Association, the Kenya Rural Tourism Network, the Korea Ecotourism Society, NATH Inc., the National Council for Sustainable Development of Honduras, the Regional Tourism Organization of Southern Africa, the Society for Sustainable Tourism & Development Inc., Tourisk Inc., Betterfly Tourism, Udyama and the Vietnam Cleaner Production Centre, among others.

36. In 2016, sustainable tourism programme actors developed 32 knowledge and technical tools for sustainable consumption and production, including guidelines, tools, standards, reports and journal articles. Thirty-four percent of those resources had a global scope.

37. Relevant guidelines included "The Responsible Tourist" (Spenceley Tourism and Development); the "Green trekking code of conduct" (Sustainable Tourism Foundation, Pakistan); "Make it count: guide for outbound tour operators and ground agents" (The Travel Foundation); and "Energy efficiency tips for hotel staff" (UNWTO), among others.

38. Technical tools released in 2016 included a carbon calculator for tour operators (Dutch Association of Tour Operators); voluntary certification criteria (Fair Trade Tourism); research papers on resource efficiency by the International Centre for Responsible Tourism; assessment of carbon emissions of the transportation and accommodation industries (Ministry of Tourism of the Bahamas); best practices diagnostic tools for micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (Rainforest Alliance) and the Global Sustainable Tourism Dashboard, created to monitor the development of sustainable tourism (the World Travel and Tourism Council), among others.

39. A total of 43 outreach and communication activities were implemented by sustainable tourism programme actors in 2016, reaching over 700,000 people. The majority (52 per cent) were events by actors such as the China Lab for Architecture and Urban Studies of the University of Pavia, Italy, and DEFISMED; communication campaigns (31 per cent) by actors such as the African Union of Conservationists, the European Alliance for Responsible Tourism and Hospitality, the Italian Association of Responsible Tourism and Waponi Tropic Ecuador; and social media activities (24 per cent) by actors such as Amigos de Sian Ka'an.

40. Relevant outreach and communication activities included, among others, a best practices guideline for tourism in protected areas by the Tourism and Protected Areas Specialist (TAPAS) Group of the International Union for Conservation of Nature; the annual report of Les Villages Nature Val d'Europe; the online sustainable tourism portal of the Ministry of Tourism of Croatia; and the climate-related webinars developed by UNEP with financial support of the Government of France (Ministry of the Environment, Energy and the Sea).[17]

41. Initiatives to advance the integration of sustainable consumption and production into policies included the efforts of the Ministry of Tourism of Morocco to establish the African Charter for Sustainable and Responsible Tourism, adopted

[17] Available from http://sdt.unwto.org/webinars-10yfp-stp.

by 25 African countries in November 2016 at the twenty-second Conference of the Parties.[13]

42. Major high-level commitments in 2016 related to sustainable consumption and production included the Beijing Declaration of Sustainable Tourism as a Driver for Development and Peace[14] and the Petra Declaration on Investing in Tourism for an Inclusive Future,[15] which made explicit reference to the need to accelerate the shift to sustainable consumption and production patterns in the tourism sector and were adopted by representatives from Governments, the private sector and civil society as the outcome documents of the first World Conference on Tourism for Development and the Regional Conference on Investing in Tourism for an Inclusive Future, respectively.

43. Complete information on the sustainable tourism programme portfolio of activities will be available on the website of the sustainable consumption and production clearinghouse[16] and in the sustainable tourism programme annual magazine of 2016, which will be launched mid-2017.[17]

C. Sustainable food systems

44. The sustainable food systems programme, launched in October 2015, is led by the Federal Office for Agriculture of Switzerland, the Department of Trade and Industry of South Africa, Hivos and the World Wide Fund for Nature. The programme is supported by a 23-member multi-stakeholder advisory committee and brings together 116 partners from all stakeholder groups.

45. The activities of the sustainable food systems programme in 2016 were mainly focused on building the necessary structures to make the programme operational while serving as a bridge for collaboration and multi-stakeholder dialogue and cooperation among its members. At three meetings of the multi-stakeholder advisory committee, held in March, June and October 2016, the terms of reference of the programme, priority activities, focus themes and programme projects were adopted as presented below. A programme-specific monitoring and evaluation framework, a resource mobilization strategy and a communication strategy have also been proposed and discussed.

46. In June 2016, the programme agreed on five focus themes leading to sustainable systemic changes in the global food system that provide direction for programme actions. The themes include: sustainable diets; sustainability along all food value chains; reduction of food loss and waste; local, national and regional multi-stakeholder platforms; and resilient, inclusive and diverse food production systems. In addition, two categories of projects have been identified: one on core initiatives and the other on affiliated projects/activities.

47. With respect to the framework indicators of success, the sustainable food systems programme reported the following data on outcomes for 2016:

[13] See http://media.unwto.org/press-release/2016-11-14/african-tourism-ministers-adopt-african-charter-sustainable-and-responsible.

[14] Available from http://dte.org/global/docs/WCMS_542921/lang--en/index.htm.

[15] Available from http://middle-east.unwto.org/node/49870.

[16] See www.scpclearinghouse.org/sustainable-tourism/portfolio-work.

[17] See http://sdt.unwto.org/annualreport-10yfp-stp.

Table 4
Sustainable food systems programme (2016)

Indicator		*Total*
1.1	Projects supporting sustainable consumption and production	19
1.3	Training for sustainable consumption and production (person-days)	12 500
2.1	Sustainable consumption and production network (number of Governments/ organizations)	116
2.2	Outreach and communication activities for sustainable consumption and production	15
2.3	Production of knowledge and technical tools	2
3.1	Sustainable consumption and production in policy instruments (number of Governments/organizations)	3
3.6	Coordination on sustainable consumption and production (number of mechanisms)	2

48. A total of eight project or project ideas for core initiatives[18] were identified by the advisory committee members, several of which have activities that are in the implementation phase or that are already funded. These are listed in table 5.

Table 5
Sustainable food systems programme core initiatives

Core initiative title		*Lead organizations*
1	Sustainable diets in the context of sustainable food systems	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and UNEP
2	Sustainable and healthy gastronomy as a key driver for sustainable food systems	Government of Costa Rica, Hivos, IFOAM-Organics International, Smaackmakers, CACORE and the National Biodiversity Institute of Costa Rica (INBio)
3	Sustainability along all value chains: identifying and promoting local initiatives linking small-scale producers and consumers	FAO
4	Complementing existing value chain sustainability assessments: measuring, communicating and valuing biodiversity in food systems	Nestle
5	Delivering target 12.3 on food loss and waste reduction	UNEP, FAO
6	Setting the table for our children — exploring the path to more sustainable food systems through multi-stakeholder action	Hivos, BioVision, UNEP
7	Sustainable food systems — what's in it for farmers?	FAO, UNEP, BioVision

[18] See http://www.scpclearinghouse.org/sustainable-food-system/core-initiatives-sfs-programme.

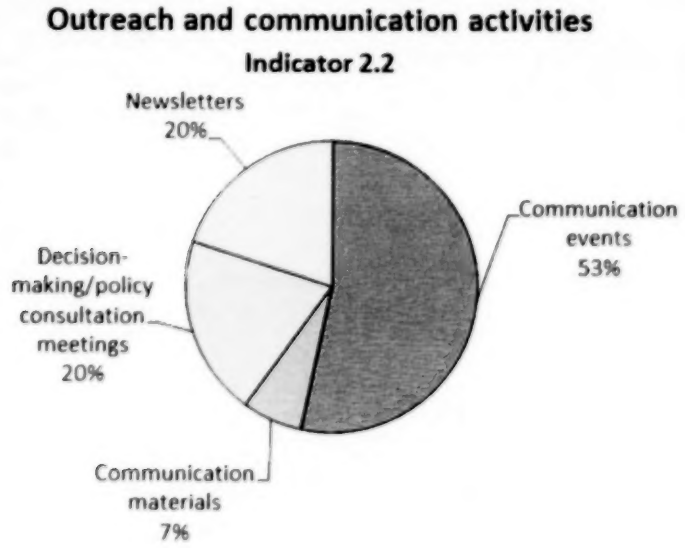
Core initiative title		*Lead organizations*
8	The organic food system programme: organic food systems as models and living laboratories for transformation processes towards sustainable food systems	Food Quality and Health Association (FQH), Building Ecological Regenerative Agriculture and Societies (BERAS)-International, IFOAM-Organics International.

49. The first affiliated project was approved by the advisory committee in October 2016.[19] A total of 15 additional submissions were received in December 2016. Their evaluation and approval were pending as of January 2017.

50. The programme reported 47 outreach and communication activities in 2016, the majority of which were outreach activities through events. There were also newsletters, communication materials such as brochures, a programme-specific web. te and decision-making and consultation meetings. The programme was represented at a Swiss stakeholder event; the eighth meeting of the OECD Food Chain Analysis Network on Reducing Food Loss And Waste in Retail and Processing; a side event at the high-level political forum on sustainable consumption opportunities and challenges; Forum Origin, Diversity and Territories; an EAT Forum workshop; an FAO Committee on Agriculture side event; and a Chatman House panel discussion.

Figure 5

Outreach and communication activities reported by the sustainable food systems programme in 2016



51. In terms of knowledge and technical tools, in 2016 the programme organized a massive open online course entitled "Food and our future: sustainable food systems in Southeast Asia".[20] In addition, a workshop and report were organized by FAO and

[19] See www.scpclearinghouse.org/sustainable-food-system/affiliated-projects-sfs-programme.

[20] See www.futurelearn.com/courses/food-systems-southeast-asia.

UNEP, with the support of Switzerland, to examine potential contributions that the organization, operation and governance of food value chains could make to the sustainability of food systems.

52. The programme reported on the following three policies/instruments adopted or implemented in Argentina: (a) an industrial reframing programme; (b) a national food loss and waste programme; and (c) a national agency for scientific and technological promotion.

53. The United Nations expressed additional support for the programme. The United Nations General Assembly welcome the launch of the programme in its resolution 70/223 on agriculture development, food security and nutrition. At its twenty-fifth session,[21] the Committee on Agriculture requested FAO to strengthen its work on sustainable food systems in relation to the 10-year framework.

54. Full details on the sustainable food systems portfolio of activities and partners are available on the website of the sustainable consumption and production clearinghouse.[22]

D. Consumer information for sustainable consumption and production

55. The consumer information for sustainable consumption and production programme, launched is July 2014, is co-led by the Governments of Germany and Indonesia and Consumers International. The programme is supported by a 20-member multi-stakeholder advisory committee, with a network of 84 partners. At the end of its two-year term, in December 2016, the multi-stakeholder advisory committee confirmed eight new members.

56. The programme serves as a global platform to support the provision of quality information on goods and services and the identification and implementation of the most effective strategies to engage consumers in sustainable consumption. It empowers and raises the profile of relevant policies, strategies, projects and partnerships, building synergies and cooperation between different stakeholders to leverage resources towards mutual goals.

57. With respect to the framework indicators of success, the consumer information for sustainable consumption and production programme reported the following data on outcomes for 2016:

Table 6
Consumer information for sustainable consumption and production programme (2016)

Indicator		*Total*
1.1	Projects supporting sustainable consumption and production	4
1.3	Training for sustainable consumption and production (person-days)	38
2.1	Sustainable consumption and production network (number of Governments/ organizations)	84
2.2	Outreach and communication activities for sustainable consumption and production	23
2.3	Production of knowledge and technical tools	20
3.1	Sustainable consumption and production in policy instruments (number of	1

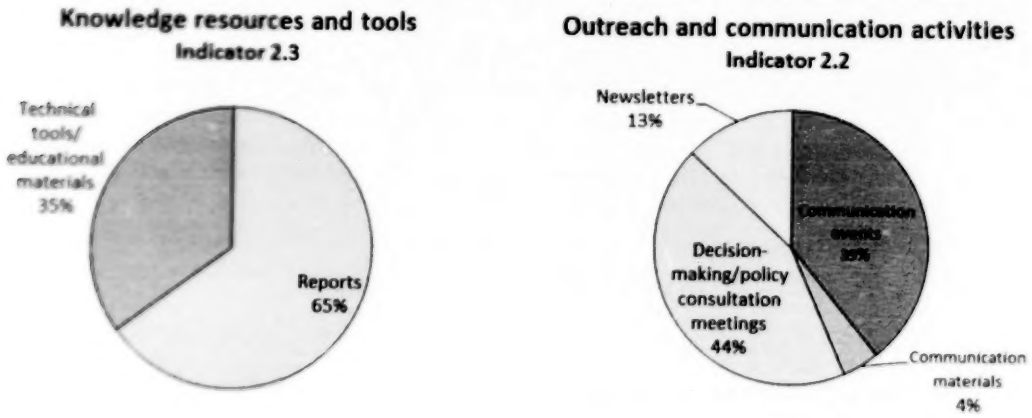
[21] See http://www.fao.org/3/a-mr949e.pdf.
[22] See www.scpclearinghouse.org/sustainable-food-system/portfolio-work.

Indicator		*Total*
	Governments/organizations)	
3.4	Sustainable consumption and production changes in practices	10
3.6	Coordination on sustainable consumption and production (number of mechanisms)	6

58. In 2016, 20 knowledge and technical tools were produced and reported by, or in connection with, the programme, of which there were 13 reports and 7 technical tools covering topics such as eco-labelling and product life cycles. Among the reports were a report on key sustainability criteria for paper, wooden furniture and cleaning products that are relevant and applicable to the Southern Cone countries;[23] a report on eco-labels for prioritized product groups in Moldova that were developed through the Sustainable Public Procurement and Eco-labelling Project and the Greening Economies in the European Union's Eastern Neighbourhood (EaP Green) programme; and a report entitled "Opportunities for national life cycle network creation and expansion around the world",[24] developed as part of the Life Cycle Initiative of UNEP and the Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry, which assesses the status of life cycle networks and the development of life cycle assessment databases around the world.

Figure 6

Knowledge and resource tools and outreach and communication activities reported by the consumer information for sustainable consumption and production programme in 2016



59. Training material on eco-labelling and compliance with sustainability specifications for sustainable public procurement was developed in 2016 through the Sustainable Public Procurement and Eco-labelling project. The project provides technical assistance to the private sector, especially small and medium-sized enterprises, in order to meet sustainability criteria and covers topics such as sustainable consumption and production criteria, eco-labels and voluntary sustainability standards, lifecycle approaches, eco-innovation, cleaner production, social responsibility and marketing and strategy for the improvement of international competitiveness. The training was also delivered to 38 small and medium-sized enterprises in Colombia.

[23] Available from www.scpclearinghouse.org/resource/cono-sur-propuesta-de-criterios-de-sustentabilidad-clave.

[24] Available from www.lifecycleinitiative.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/mapping-publication-9.10.16-web.pdf.

60. In 2016, a total of 23 outreach and communication activities were carried out by actors in the context of the consumer information for sustainable consumption and production programme, including workshops, brochures, project and programme newsletters and consultations.

61. In terms of policy, Colombia developed a national eco-labelling action plan focused on the "Colombian environmental seal", which is a Government-managed voluntary tool designed to promote goods and services that have a lower impact on the environment. The action plan is one of the main policies and guidelines designed to regulate eco-labelling in the country and constitutes a road map for directing public-private action in the coming years.

62. In terms of changes in practices, a methodology previously rolled out in France to calculate and communicate through a label the environmental impact of hotels has been successfully applied in 10 pilot projects in Morocco with the support of the International Climate Initiative. The hotels assess their environmental footprint and communicate this in a label outlining performance with respect to water, climate change, resource use and the use of bio-labelled products. The activities are implemented jointly with the sustainable tourism programme.

63. Key activities related to improving availability, accessibility and quality of consumer information to create a basis for the provision of credible information include: (a) bringing together over 35 institutions in a consultative process to develop guidelines for providing product sustainability information, on which feedback was received from over 90 stakeholders as part of a global consultation; and (b) supporting the development of a methodological framework for hotspot analysis at the product and sector levels, together with the Life Cycle Initiative. It is expected that the guidelines and the methodological framework will be published in 2017.

64. In terms of driving change in Government and business to ensure that the conditions are provided to support best practices in relation to consumer information, the programme developed a report on product lifetime extension that is to be published in 2017. A working group on sustainable public procurement and the use of eco-labels and voluntary sustainability standards was supported in conjunction with the sustainable public procurement programme.

65. In terms of enhancing communication to drive behavioural change and ensure the transition from being informed to taking action, the programme: (a) launched a working group on the communication of products social impacts that was co-led by New Earth, the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission and UNEP, with the participation of 35 experts; and (b) supported the development of the 10-year framework report entitled "Consuming differently, consuming sustainably: behavioural insights for policymaking".

66. Full details on the consumer information for sustainable consumption and production portfolio of activities and partners are available on the website of the sustainable consumption and production clearinghouse.[25]

E. Sustainable lifestyles and education

67. The sustainable lifestyles and education programme, co-led by the Ministry of Environment of Japan, the Government of Sweden and the World Wide Fund for Nature, was launched in November 2014. Sweden and Japan have designated the Stockholm Environment Institute and the Institute for Global Environmental

[25] See www.scpclearinghouse.org/consumer-information-scp/portfolio-work.

Strategies, respectively, as the coordinators of the programme. The programme is supported by a 21-member multi-stakeholder advisory committee and brings together 76 partners.

68. The work areas of the programme are: (a) developing and replicating sustainable lifestyles, including low-carbon lifestyles; (b) educating for sustainable lifestyles; and (c) transforming the lifestyles of the current generation and shaping those of future generations. The sustainable lifestyles and education action plan for the period 2016-2017 is composed of three main pillars: (a) outreach and communications; (b) fundraising and resource mobilization; and (c) project implementation. All planned activities of the programme fall within these three pillars.

69. With respect to the framework indicators of success, the sustainable lifestyles and education programme reported the following data on outcomes for 2016:

Table 7
Sustainable lifestyles and education programme

Indicator		*Total*
1.1	Projects supporting sustainable consumption and production	6
1.3	Training for sustainable consumption and production (person-days)	1 600
2.1	Sustainable consumption and production network (number of Governments/ organizations)	76
2.2	Outreach and communication activities for sustainable consumption and production	8
2.3	Production of knowledge and technical tools	11

70. The sustainable lifestyles and education programme developed 17 projects in 2016, which are expected to be launched in 2017. Those include 6 projects selected from the trust fund call for proposals, 7 projects selected under a call for proposals on low-carbon lifestyles supported by the Government of Japan, and 4 projects, also supported by the Government of Japan, which are contributing to the objectives of the programme.

71. The sustainable lifestyles and education programme reported 11 knowledge resources and tools in 2016, which included a series of toolkits to support the inclusion of sustainable lifestyles in education, a toolkit for work on sustainable lifestyles at local and municipal levels and three reports.

72. The three reports published in 2016 provide the basis to further the understanding of sustainable lifestyles and accelerate their widespread adoption. They include a UNEP report on the determinants of and strategies for a framework for shaping sustainable lifestyles;[26] a policy brief by the Stockholm Environment Institute on sustainable cities and lessons from a Swedish community-level initiative;[27] and a UNEP report on principles and emerging practices in fostering and communicating sustainable lifestyles.[28]

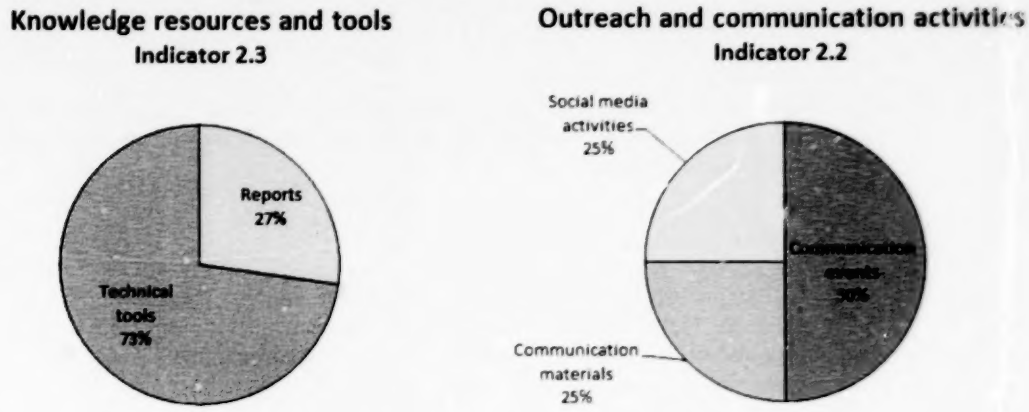
[26] Available from www.scpclearinghouse.org/resource/framework-shaping-sustainable-lifestyles-determinants-and-strategies.

[27] Available from www.sei-international.org/mediamanager/documents/Publications/NEW/SEI-PB-2016-Hokarangen-web.pdf.

[28] Available from www.climateaccess.org/sites/default/files/UN%20Fostering%20Communicating%20Sust%20Lifestyles%20Dec%202016.pdf.pdf.

Figure 7

Knowledge and resource tools and outreach and communication activities reported by the sustainable lifestyles and education programme in 2016



73. In 2016, a total of eight outreach and communications activities were carried out by actors in the sustainable lifestyles and education programme. Half of the activities were communication events, such as organization of or participation in conferences and workshops. The other half was composed of the development and maintenance of communication materials (25 per cent), such as the development of a sustainable lifestyles and education template kit and sustainable lifestyles and education newsletters, and of social media activity (25 per cent), such as the creation of and adding of video content to a YouTube channel and a Facebook account.

74. In terms of policy, Sweden adopted a national strategy on sustainable consumption in 2016. The strategy focuses on what the State can do, together with municipalities, the business sector and civil society, to make it easier for consumers to act sustainably. The sustainable lifestyles and education programme, represented by the Stockholm Environment Institute, provided input to the Government and other relevant stakeholder groups on the strategy through several projects, networking meetings and events.

75. The working group on education for sustainable lifestyles developed an action plan to be implemented in 2016 with scarce resources and that builds upon activities already underway or planned by the sustainable lifestyles and education partners and the Partnership for Education and Research about Responsible Living network. Some of the activities included collaboration on more than 20 courses/lectures relevant to education for sustainable lifestyles, contribution to 15 scholarly articles, participation in several events and communication with national authorities to promote education for sustainable lifestyles.

76. The Stockholm Environment Institute and the Berghs School of Communications collaborated to create a course for students of all the programmes and levels of the school to explore the subjects of sustainable consumption and sustainable lifestyles. Students were asked to pick a company and develop a business idea to promote sustainable lifestyles and bring added value to the company and the consumer.

77. The sustainable lifestyles and education programme has developed a project to be launched in 2017 on envisioning future low-carbon lifestyles and transitioning instruments. The aim of the project is to develop comprehensive descriptions of potential sustainable lifestyles and the means by which they can be achieved, through: (a) developing an empirical analysis of current policies, instruments and

frameworks that can support the transition to future sustainable lifestyles; and (b) undertaking an assessment of scientifically developed future scenarios and constructing a framework for envisioning and developing future sustainable lifestyles scenarios. Another project on monitoring and evaluating the sustainability impacts (including CO_2 reduction) and the scalability of sustainable lifestyles projects will also be launched in 2017.

78. Full details on the sustainable lifestyles and education portfolio of activities and partners are available on the website of the sustainable consumption and production clearinghouse.[29]

F. Sustainable buildings and construction

79. The sustainable buildings and construction programme, launched in April 2015, is led by Finland and co-led by UNEP, the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology and the World Green Building Council. The programme is supported by a 19-member multi-stakeholder advisory committee.

80. The aims of the sustainable buildings and construction programme are: (a) to establish, promote and enable conditions for sustainable building and construction policies; (b) to support and promote sustainable housing; (c) to enhance sustainability in the building supply chain; and (d) to reduce climate impacts and strengthen the climate resilience of the building and construction sector. The programme workplan for the period 2015-2016 focuses on project implementation, partner engagement, resource mobilization and communication. The two main activities of the programme in 2016 were the preparation of projects for implementation and outreach, awareness-raising and the dissemination of information.

81. With respect to the framework indicators of success, the sustainable buildings and construction programme reported the following data on outcomes for 2016:

Table 8
Sustainable buildings and construction programme (2016)

Indicator		Total
1.1	Projects supporting sustainable consumption and production	3
1.3	Training for sustainable consumption and production	163
2.1	Sustainable consumption and production network (number of Governments/organizations)	35
2.2	Outreach and communication for sustainable consumption and production	31
2.3	Production of knowledge and technical tools	2
3.1	Sustainable consumption and production in policy instruments (number of Governments/organizations)	14
3.3	Education on sustainable consumption and production (number of countries)	5
3.5	Sustainable consumption and production commitments	1
3.6	Coordination on sustainable consumption and production (number of mechanisms)	1

82. Three trust fund projects started implementation in 2016, covering five countries across three regions. They were selected based on overall objectives to mainstream policy instruments into their geographical areas. The sustainable

[29] See www.scpclearinghouse.org/sustainable-lifestyles-and-education/portfolio-work.

buildings and construction programme has also shortlisted another nine project proposals submitted to the trust fund for funding and has endorsed three flagship proposals on: (a) key urban interventions through sustainable social housing, led by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) and endorsed by the Government of Ethiopia; (b) transforming the market for the energy efficiency of buildings, led by the World Business Council for Sustainable Development; and (c) curricula on the built environment, led by the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology.

83. Sustainable buildings and construction outreach disseminated information to 2,260 experts at over 31 events. Among others, the sustainable buildings and construction programme organized networking events at the third United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development and a side event at the twenty-second Conference of the Parties to the Climate Change Convention. At the third United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development, the programme supported a demonstration project on the use of local materials and sustainable construction within the urban context of Quito. A special forum and a workshop were organized at the twentieth World Building Congress of the International Council for Research and Innovation in Building and Construction and at the 2016 International Sustainable Built Environment Conference Series respectively. The programme also organized five training sessions, for a total of 465 participants, the equivalent of 163 person-days of training.

84. Communication materials that were developed included brochures, flyers, presentations, posters and two videos.

85. In terms of knowledge and tools, the programme developed the sustainable housing design tool known as "SHERPA" for Burkina Faso, Kenya and Nepal and developed a report on strengthening national building codes at the local level for the Aburrá Valley in Colombia.

86. The programme will support 14 Governments and other organizations in making progress in developing, adopting or implementing policy instruments on sustainable consumption and production. Policies to be developed include those addressing national sustainable construction in Colombia; affordable sustainable housing in Burkina Faso, Kenya and Nepal; and the mainstreaming of sustainable social housing in India.

87. With respect to education, the sustainable buildings and construction programme is supporting five countries in the Asia-Pacific region in integrating sustainable consumption and production topics into education practices, by examining the role of built environment curricula in the region, with a focus on architecture, engineering and planning. This initiative takes an institutional approach by engaging industry, Governments and academia to change curricula. Case studies have been undertaken in China, Indonesia, the Philippines, Sri Lanka and Thailand. The next step is to use this information to undertake pilot studies to effect curricular change.

88. The sustainable buildings and construction programme is the chair of the 10-year framework monitoring and evaluation task force for the framework indicators of success.

89. The sustainable buildings and construction programme is a member of the Global Alliance for Buildings and Construction.

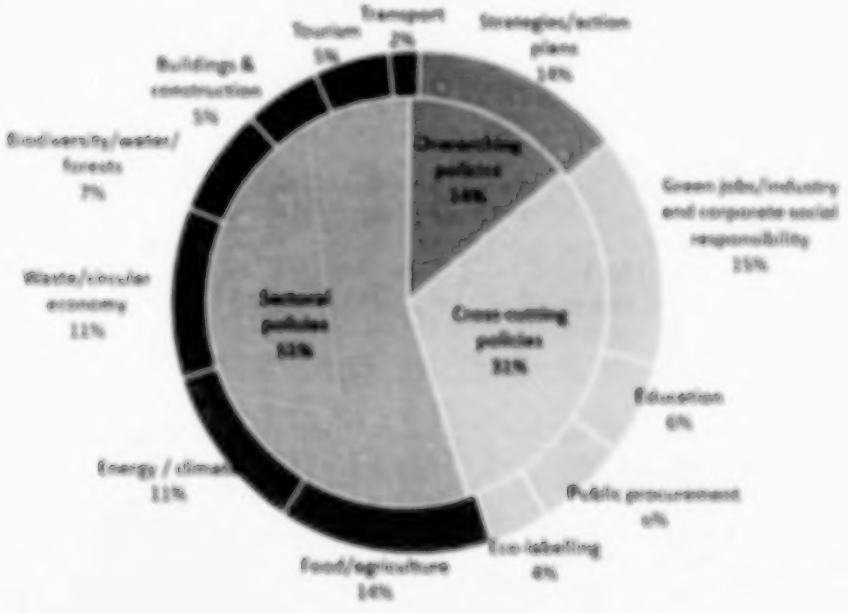
90. Details on the sustainable buildings and construction activity and partner portfolio are available on the website of the sustainable consumption and production clearinghouse.[24]

C. Regional and national initiatives

91. The pilot reporting exercise on the 10-year framework indicators of success shows a total of 215 Governments and other organizations making progress in developing, adopting or implementing policy instruments on sustainable consumption and production.

92. Working closely with the framework national focal points, the framework secretariat conducted the first global survey on national sustainable consumption and production policies and initiatives in 2015 (pilot phase), which will contribute to the establishment of a baseline of sustainable consumption and production policies worldwide. The objectives of the survey were to take stock of sustainable consumption and production policies and initiatives led by governmental/public institutions worldwide and to identify opportunities for replication and scaling up. Nearly 50 countries and the European Union contributed to the pilot phase between the end of 2015 and 2016, reporting on 273 national sustainable consumption and production policies and initiatives led by Governments and public institutions globally. While a global baseline of sustainable consumption and production policies remains to be established, the capacity of the 10-year framework as a whole to respond to the needs of countries in a more targeted manner is expected to increase.

Figure 6
Distribution by category of policies reported in the global survey on national policies and initiatives for 2015



[24] See www.oneplanetnetwork.org/sustainable-buildings-and-construction/about.

91. The network of framework national focal points has been activated through regional and subregional multi-stakeholder meetings, capacity-building workshops and tools as well as, in some cases, through support to national interministerial coordination on sustainable consumption and production. The engagement of the national focal points, officially representing their Governments in the context of an intergovernmental mandate, has contributed to the strengthening and institutionalization of existing regional platforms dedicated to sustainable consumption and production, including the regional sustainable consumption and production roundtables in Africa and the Asia-Pacific region, as well as the Regional Council of Government Experts on Sustainable Consumption and Production, for Latin America and the Caribbean.

92. In 2016, the following regional road maps and strategies for sustainable consumption and production and the implementation of the 10-year framework were developed and launched: the Asia and Pacific regional roadmap on sustainable consumption and production (2016-2018), with the support of the framework; and the Latin America and the Caribbean road map for implementation (2016-2017) of the regional strategy on sustainable consumption and production for framework implementation, endorsed at a regional forum of ministers of the environment in Latin America and the Caribbean. The regional strategies include priorities addressed in the programmes, such as waste and small and medium-sized enterprises.

93. A toolkit has been developed to support the promotion of sustainable consumption and production by the framework national focal points at the national level. It will be available in Arabic, English, French, Russian and Spanish and will be distributed to the national focal points early in 2017. An e-learning course on sustainable consumption and production in Africa (in English and French), adapted from the SWITCH Asia project, was developed in partnership with the United Nations Institute for Training and Research and the SWITCH Africa Green project. The objective of the course is to assist high and mid-level civil servants in the Africa (for example, framework and SWITCH Africa Green national focal points) in developing, implementing, monitoring and evaluating policies that support the transitions towards sustainable consumption and production.

II. The trust fund of the 10-year framework of programmes

94. The 10-year framework trust fund is one of the means of framework implementation. The aims of the trust fund are: (a) to provide general support to the implementation of the framework; and (b) to support specific programmes and initiatives, responding to the national and regional priorities of developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

95. Under the six calls for proposal completed since the trust fund became operational in 2014, 614 eligible proposals have been received and evaluated. The calls for proposals indicate a strong demand for accelerating the shift to sustainable consumption and production in developing countries and in countries with economies in transition.

96. The framework trust fund has selected for funding a total of 25 projects, of which 11 began to be implemented in 2016 (see table 9). The regional distribution of the selected projects is as follows: 7 in Africa; 10 in the Asia-Pacific region; and 8 in Latin America and the Caribbean. The outputs and outcomes of the trust fund projects are included among the programme results of the 10-year framework.

Table 9
10-year framework trust fund projects under implementation

Programme	*Project title*	*Executing agency*
Sustainable public procurement	Establishment and implementation of green public procurement in Quezon City for the promotion of sustainable consumption and production in the Philippines	Philippine Centre for Environment Protection and Sustainable Development
	Mainstreaming sustainable public procurement through the introduction of product service systems in Western Cape Province, South Africa	International Institute for Sustainable Development
	Towards a sustainable public procurement system in Uruguay	United Nations Office for Project Services
Consumer information for sustainable consumption and production	China sustainable consumption research programme: consumer awareness and behaviour change in sustainable consumption	China Chain Store and Franchise Association
	Development of a smartphone application for consumer awareness in Chile	Chile Foundation
Sustainable buildings and construction	Implementation phase of the sustainable construction policy in the Aburrá Valley, Colombia	Metropolitian Area of the Aburrá Valley, Colombia
	Mainstreaming sustainable social housing in India	Oxford Brookes University, United Kingdom
	Development of the sustainable housing design tool "SHERPA" (Burkina Faso, Kenya and Nepal)	UN-Habitat
Sustainable tourism programme	Creating a sustainable community tourism model for South Africa	Africa!Ignite
	Inca alliance for sustainable tourism: public private partnership model for innovative and sustainable eco-tourism in historical-cultural and nature destinations in Peru	Grupo GEA
	South Pacific Tourism Organization sustainable enterprise programme for the South Pacific (Fiji and Samoa)	Sustainable Travel International

99. In 2016, two new calls for proposals were launched: one on sustainable food systems, for which the evaluation and selection of projects will take place in 2017; the other, on sustainable lifestyles and education, focusing on low-carbon sustainable lifestyles and funded by the Government of Japan, for which seven projects have been selected for funding, with implementation to begin in 2017.

III. Conclusions and recommendations

100. The piloting of the 10-year framework indicators of success provides an overview of the wealth of activities and resources available within the framework network to support the shift to sustainable consumption and production. The development of the indicators by the framework task force on monitoring and evaluation and data collection by framework programmes has required a substantial effort by all involved. The results will significantly support the framework in assessing and improving performance to inform the planning of activities and in demonstrating progress to show accountability towards all actors and communicate results to the wider public.

101. The framework indicators of success will be further refined over the course of 2017, on the basis of the results and lessons learned during the pilot reporting exercise and on the basis of developments involving relevant Sustainable Development Goal indicators. The indicators will form the basis of the framework midterm progress report and will develop capacity to strengthen the framework programme portfolios.

102. Notwithstanding the multitude and variety of stakeholders within each of the programmes and the different economic, social, political and cultural realities in different regions and countries that pose significant challenges to the 10-year framework, those challenges can potentially be turned into opportunities through adequate engagement and the tailoring of solutions to both stakeholder needs and national or regional specificities. In this context, the first global survey on national sustainable consumption and production policies and initiatives (pilot phase) has provided a preliminary overview of the baselines and needs at the national level.

103. It is anticipated that reporting results on a limited set of framework indicators of success will be rolled out to national focal points in 2017. This will allow for a baseline on national sustainable consumption and production policies to be established and support the network in connecting demand at the national level to the resources and best practices within programmes. The roll-out will encompass national reporting on Sustainable Development Goal indicator 12.1.1.

104. On the basis of the methodology developed by the framework monitoring and evaluation task force on indicator 12.1.1 (equivalent to the framework indicator of success 3.1 on policy instruments for sustainable consumption and production) a request to reclassify indicator 12.1.1 as a tier II indicator (currently classified as tier III) will be made to the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators. This will facilitate the inclusion of information on target 12.1 in the next report on the Goals.

105. Collaboration between framework programmes has already been established, in particular by the sustainable public procurement programme, the consumer information for sustainable consumption and production programme and the sustainable tourism programme, through joint working groups and/or joint projects. Building on such collaboration, a key challenge to be addressed by the 10-year framework will be to ensure that implementation of the programmes, as well as the implementation activities of global, regional and national actors, are not confined within silos but are connected and consolidated.

106. The upgrading of the sustainable consumption and production clearinghouse towards the end of 2016 provided the framework with a knowledge management platform that has state-of-the-art technology. A progressively strengthened use of the platform by framework actors will enable further knowledge management, collaboration and engagement among actors and other stakeholders working on

sustainable consumption and production, and facilitate communication on activities and of results within the network and to the wider public. In 2017, the functionalities and the use of the sustainable consumption and production clearinghouse as a central knowledge management platform and as a key tool for framework communication and outreach will be further strengthened. The clearinghouse will be instrumental in scaling up efforts across the framework.

107. Communication and outreach was a focus across the 10-year framework in 2016, as illustrated by the 293 communication and outreach activities undertaken by a variety of actors. The organisation of framework programme events at the third United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development and at the twenty-second Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Climate Change have further promoted the framework and strengthened its visibility. Social media has also been an effective tool in promoting the framework. Twitter accounts post material on a daily basis on framework and sustainable consumption and production activities (@10YFP, @10YFP_STP, @10YFP_SPP, @GlobalSCP). For framework communications to be effective, they will need to continue on the thematic and programme levels, while having a coordinated approach across the network. To that effect, a framework communications strategy has been developed to position the 10-year framework as a United Nations leading initiative on sustainable consumption and production.

108. The resources required for implementation of the framework are a challenge at all levels. Significant funding is required for the projects, activities and coordination of the programmes, for the trust fund and for the secretariat to carry out core functions. A framework resource mobilization strategy has been developed to ensure a coordinated and collaborative approach to resource mobilization across the 10-year framework. It is essential that those funds become available in the next year to ensure that momentum is not lost, to strengthen the engagement of actors and deliver to scale, as well as to meet the growing demand for support from the framework.

109. In 2017, the 10-year framework has both entered its fifth year and reached its mid-term point. Throughout the year, the framework will undergo a mid-term review, which will include a progress reporting for the period 2013-2017, an external review and stakeholder consultations. This will lay the foundation for the framework strategy for the period 2018-2022.